FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL CALLS FOR SUMMIT

NC181425Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 18 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 March--Mahmud Riyad, secretary general of the Arab League, has called for an Arab summit meeting of kings and presidents as soon as possible in order to confront the dangers of the Israeli aggression against the Arab nation as represented in its attack on Lebanon.

The Arab League secretary general announced that he sent out invitations today for convening an emergency Arab summit conference of the member states to be preceded by a meeting of Arab foreign ministers to prepare for the summit. He added that he is awaiting the reply of the Arab governments to this invitation.

Speaking at a press conference this afternoon, the Arab League secretary general called for restoring Arab solidarity to confront the dangers of the Israeli aggression, which threatens the whole Arab nation. He described the Israeli aggression as an extension of previous Israeli aggressions against the Palestinian, Egyptian, Jordanian and Syrian people.

The Arab League secretary general stressed the need to end Arab differences as soon as possible and to stop the propaganda campaign among the Arab states because the perpetuation of Arab differences is a main factor encouraging Israeli aggression. Moreover, he said, Israel is superior in military arms, which it obtains from the United States, and in finding pretexts for its security requirements.

Mahmud Riyad called on world states, particularly those which reject the Israeli stand, to withdraw their ambassadors from Israel and to close down the Israeli embassies in their capitals. They should do this as a protest against the continuous Israeli aggression against the Arab states, Lebanon and the Palestinian people and in reply to Menahem Begin's persistent rejection of Resolution 242, which provides for Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza. He added that it is time that the world states assume in practice their responsibility toward the Arab and Palestinian cause.

Asked about Israeli ambitions in southern Lebanon, the secretary general of the Arab League said that these are old ambitions which have figured in Israel's planning since its establishment. He cited the recommendations of a technical [fanni] conference held in Jerusalem in 1953 calling for taking control of Litani River waters. He also noted recent Israeli attempts to control the bridges over this river.

He said that the Palestinian fedayeen operation was only a pretext for Israel to occupy territory and liquidate the Palestinian people.

Asked about the possibility of holding a meeting of the confrontation states as an alternative to or prior to the proposed summit meeting, Mahmud Riyad answered that the confrontation states shoulder the main burden but Arab differences have prevented such a meeting so far. Therefore, the elimination of Arab differences can pave the way for many things.

Asked about the date he proposes for the summit meeting, Riyad said the date of the meeting will depend on the replies of the member states. However,he prefers to have a meeting with the Arab foreign ministers during this week at the latest.

Asked about his view of the proposal for stationing UN forces on the Lebanese-Israeli border, Riyad said the armistice agreement between Lebanon and Israel calls for stationing UN observer forces on the border. A number of these observers were wounded during the recent Israeli attack on Lebanon. He added that Lebanon's view of this matter is the decisive factor because it can define the size of these forces and their task.

It is recalled that the Arab League Secretariat General informed the Arab states last week of the YAR's call for holding an Arab summit conference. Last night King Husayn also called for an Arab summit conference to discuss the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. However, the Arab League has not yet received the text of the Jordanian proposal.

In accordance with the Algiers summit conference resolutions, any member state or the Arab League Secretary General can call for a summit conference, which can be convened following the approval of the majority of the member states.

Eight States Agree to Summit

NC191450Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1408 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 March--The Arab League has received the approval of eight Arab states to convene an Arab summit conference to discuss the developments in the Middle East area.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Lebanon, Qatar, the YAR, the UAE and Jordan have informed the Arab League of their approval to hold a meeting of the Arab foreign ministers to prepare for the summit at a time and place to be agreed upon by the Arab states.

LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN COMMAND MEETS UNDER 'ARAFAT

NC192117Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 19 March--The Lebanese-Palestinian joint command met this evening under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat to discuss the situation in the wake of the UN Security Council resolution calling for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon. The meeting, which began at 2000, is still in progress. After the meeting a statement will be issued defining the position of the resistance and the nationalist movement which participated in confronting the Israeli aggression.

'ARAFAT ADDRESSES STATEMENT TO ARAB NATION

NC171911Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1844 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 17 March--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that the Palestinian revolution and the joint forces will remain loyal to their revolutionary, national and pan-Arab principles and to the sacred objectives which they have defined and to which they have committed themselves--namely, to fight and struggle in every inch of land, behind every wall and in every trench in southern Lebanon, regardless of the cost.

In a statement addressed to the masses of the Arab nation, 'Arafat affirmed that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin has discovered that his campaign has not been a picnic inside southern Lebanon in view of the strength, courage and legendary steadfastness of the joint forces--something which Begin had not taken into account, as was admitted by Israeli Chief of Staff Mordekhay Gur.

In his statement released by the PLO office in Doha today, 'Arafat expressed the confidence that the masses of the Arab nation "will stand with us, keep the trust and remain loyal to the pledge and stand with the heroes who are defending its existence, dignity and honor."

Concluding his statement, 'Arafat said that "The Zionist tide will inevitably ebb before the steadfastness, courage and heroism being displayed in southern Lebanon and that Begin and his Zionist military clique will learn that this nation has men and fighters who are asking for death and martyrdom in order to give birth to their nation."

PLO CALLS FOR CONFERENCE OF STEADFAST FRONT COUNTRIES

JN171951Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 17 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 17 March--The PLO has called for convening an urgent summit conference of those who attended the Algiers summit to confront the continued Zionist invasion in southern Lebanon. This came in a statement issued by the PLO this evening after a meeting of the Executive Committee and the commands of the resistance groups.

The statement says that the Zionist enemy is broadening his aggression in the southern areas. The statement calls on the Arab nation to shoulder its pan-Arab responsibilities and to open the door for strugglers and volunteers to participate in confronting the Zionist invaders on the side of the joint forces which are fighting with bravery and honor against a superior enemy.

'Abd Rabbuh Statement

JN172011Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 17 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 17 March--Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, has said that the steadfastness and confrontation ability of the front which includes Syria, Algeria, Libya and the PDRY is being put to test on Lebanese territory. In a press statement today he said that what must be done is to prevent the Zionist enemy from achieving his declared aim of annihilating the PLO so as to pave the way for Egypt, Jordan and Syria to negotiate for a settlement without obstacles. He pointed out that the Algiers summit states must give form to their opposition to the Zionist invasion and As-Sadat's capitulatory policy.

PLO OFFICIAL CALLS FOR SUMMIT ON ISRAELI ATTACK

JN181858Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1815 GMT 18 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 18 March--In an interview with the Kuwaiti Paper AL-QABAS today, PLO Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan called on the Arab countries to hold an Arab summit meeting promptly in order to adopt a clear and practical stand toward the savage Israeli attack on southern Lebanon and to proceed from defense to confrontation.

Al-Hasan further said that this attack could be an Israeli preparation to start a fifth war, intended not only to occupy territories but also to reach the Litani River and then deal a blow to Syria and the Palestinians there.

PLO DENIES ASKING FOR CONTACTS WITH UNITED STATES

NC172115Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 17 March--A PLO spokesman has denied that the PLO has asked anyone to contact the United States. In a statement this evening, the spokesman said that PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat has sent messages to the Arab kings and presidents following the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon asking them to shoulder their historic responsibility at this stage.

The spokesman added that reports put out by the Israeli information services that the PLO has asked to contact the United States are designed to undermine the Palestinian resistance, which is firmly confronting a ferocious air and ground attack in southern Lebanon.

FATAH SPOKESMAN REJECTS UN FORCES IN LEBANON

NC190840Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 19 March--Salim az-Za'nun, representative of the Palestinian national liberation movement--Fatah--in Kuwait and the gulf and deputy chairman of the Palestine National Council, has affirmed that the combat position of the Joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces in southern Lebanon was still good as of this morning. He also affirmed that the Palestinian resistance is fully determined to continue fighting no matter what.

In an exclusive statement he made today to the QNA correspondent in Kuwait, Az-Za'nun also emphasized that the present situation requires the urgent convening of an Arab summit conference to deal with the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon coupled with the adoption of a collective Arab stand to back the Palestinian resistance, despite the fact that the Palestinian fighters are in a good combat position.

The responsible Palestinian official impressed on the Arab and Islamic nation the need to understand the gravity of present events in southern Lebanon. He said: The Israeli enemy aims to create a sectarian Maronite state which would strategically ally itself with the Israeli enemy in order to eliminate the Palestinian issue and force the Arabs to surrender.

In his statement, Salim az-Za'nun also affirmed that the Palestinian resistance refuses to be a party to any cease-fire agreement in southern Lebanon.

Asked his opinion on the proposal to dispatch UN Emergency Forces to southern Lebanon, Az-Za'nun said: The PLO rejects this plan and regards it as an entrenchment of the Israeli aggression against and occupation of southern Lebanon. Furthermore, this plan will not prevent Israel from entering Lebanon in the future and entrenching its military and economic presence in this area.

He added that the dispatching of the UN forces to Lebanon would undoubtedly affect the status of the Arab deterrent forces and lead to the termination of the Syrian role in Lebanon and its replacement with an Israeli role.

EGYPT APPROVES OF UN FORCES ON LEBANESE BORDER

NC171720Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 March--Today Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil contacted the Egyptian UN ambassador in New York, or 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, and gave him instructions concerning the debate on the Israeli attack on Lebanon. MENA has learned that the Egyptian line is based on the following points:

1. The need for bringing about an immediate withdrawal from Lebanon, first of all.

2. Egypt does not object to the stationing of UN forces on the Lebanese-Israeli border if Lebanon approves of this, provided that this is coupled with Israel's recognition of the Palestinian people's rights and on the basis that security for all sides can only be achieved through a comprehensive and just settlement based on Israel's withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967 and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to self-determination.

AS-SADAT CLOSELY FOLLOWING SITUATION IN LEBANON

[illegible]228Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 March--In its Saturday edition the newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM reports that President Anwar as-Sadat is following the situation in Lebanon closely and for this reason he has decided to postpone his visit to the governorates in Upper Egypt, which was scheduled to begin in the next few days.

The newspaper also says that Egypt is continuing its contacts with the Arab states and the big powers on this subject.

AS-SADAT CALLS FOR SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

LD190010Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2320 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, 18 March--AL-AHRAM reports in its Sunday issue that President Anwar as-Sadat has called for an emergency meeting of the National Security Council to be held next Saturday. The paper points out that President as-Sadat declared during his meeting with the heads of African parliamentary delegations that he will call for a special meeting of the National Security Council in order to discuss the developments resulting from the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon. As is known the National Security Council includes the vice president of the republic, the People's Assembly speaker, the first secretary of the ASU Central Committee, the ministers of defense, foreign affairs, and interior and the director of general intelligence.

FOREIGN MINISTER ADDRESSES PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

NC191230Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 March--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has stated that the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon is not a reaction to the Tel Aviv operation but is an aggression aimed at realizing two goals for which Israel has been planning for a long time. These aims are the occupation of southern Lebanon and striking at the Palestinian presence there. Kamil added that Egypt has carried out many contacts and has exerted intensified efforts to achieve immediate Israeli withdrawal, to protect the Palestinian presence and to stop this aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese people.

In a statement at the People's Assembly session this morning to discuss the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, the foreign minister explained that the Israeli attack confirms anew Israel's expansionist policy and that it is an organized operation to exterminate the Palestinian people.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil stressed that this attack is a new obstacle to a just peace, saying: Following the Tel Aviv incident, Egypt explained that real security could not be achieved through borders and fortifications but by enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights. It also explained that it was necessary to tackle the Middle East situation in a manner which would lead to a just and comprehensive solution.

In his statement, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil emphasized Egypt's support for the struggle of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in confronting the Israeli aggression. He announced that the contacts Egypt has held in this respect have made it clear that the various states of the world have rejected Israel's requests to withdraw recognition of the PLO or to close down the PLO offices in these states.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil also announced that Egypt welcomes any efforts exerted to unify the Arab stand to confront the aggressive policy Israel is pursuing toward southern Lebanon, including the efforts being exerted to convene an Arab summit conference. He said that Egypt agrees in principle with these efforts. He added that until the objectives of these efforts are fulfilled, Egypt will remain faithful to the Palestinian cause and loyal to its responsibility for this cause.

He pointed out that Egypt has instructed its UN delegation to cooperate and coordinate with the sisterly Arab states and the friendly states for the purpose of making the Security Council pass a resolution stipulating an immediate Israeli withdrawal, the need for preserving Lebanon's security and the necessity of safeguarding the situation in southern Lebanon, even if this requires the presence of UN forces.

The following is the text of the statement Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil made to the People's Assembly:

Mr Speaker of the People's Assembly, gentlemen, members of the assembly: The interest shown by your esteemed assembly in the developments of events in Lebanon as a result of the treacherous Israeli aggression against Lebanese territory and against the Palestinian people is matched by the government's concern to always put you in the picture and derive from your support strength for the efforts the government is exerting in serving the causes of our Arab nation. Therefore, I took time to attend this session today even though we have not yet concluded the activity we are carrying out and in which we are participating in order to end the Israeli aggression.

First, I want to place the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian people in its true perspective. This aggression is in no way a reaction to the fedayeen operation which took place in Tel Aviv, but is an Israeli attempt to achieve two of its objectives--and we know that Israel has been planning for these objectives for a long time. Objective number one was to occupy southern Lebanon and objective number two was to strike at the Palestinian presence and actually exterminate the Palestinian people.

Based on this understanding of the Israeli goals, it was imperative for us to define our moves on all fronts as follows:

1. To achieve Israel's immediate withdrawal from southern Lebanon, not only because this is right and just and not solely because it is imperative and necessary to respect the security of Lebanese territory, but also because it is illogical--at a time when attempts are being made to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace--to permit Israel to create a new problem in an attempt to distract attention from the substance of the issue.

2. To protect the Palestinian presence and halt the aggression being perpetrated against the Palestinian people.

In this respect and ever since the fedayeen incident that occurred on the Haifa-Tel Aviv road, Egypt has made it clear that the profound significance of this incident is summed up in the fact that real security is not achieved by means of borders or fortifications. However, real security is achieved by enabling the Palestinian people to accede to their legitimate rights, the foremost of which is their right to determine their own fate. Furthermore, Egypt has also explained that it is indeed necessary to tackle the situation in the Middle East on the basis that righteousness and justice are the sole things which can achieve security and safety.

Brother members of the People's Assembly, it was easy for us to see that it had become clear to Israel that the Egyptian peaceful initiative had placed it in a predicament because of its intransigence. This is so because the whole world--even Israel's most loyal friends--has condemned Israel's stance, which hampers the sincere efforts which are being exerted for peace. Therefore, Israel tried to distract the world's attention from the natural course of events.

Therefore, Egypt warned against the dangers threatening the situation if Israel thought that mounting aggressive military operations against any Arab country or the Palestinian people would extricate it from the predicament in which it had placed itself as a result of its refusal or inability to respond to the Egyptian and international peace efforts. Furthermore, and in the course of our diplomatic contacts with the various states, we have explained the seriousness of going along with Israel's attempts to get these states to withdraw their recognition of the PLO or to close down the PLO offices. Our efforts have borne fruit because not a single state has acceded to this request.

Immediately after the Israeli aggression started, I issued a statement in which I explained Israel's real objectives and I emphasized:

1. That the attack is a new affirmation of the Israeli Government's expansionist policy. Furthermore, the attack was aimed at killing Palestinians just because they are Palestinians. In other words, this is an organized process of genocide against the Palestinian people.

2. That the attack places a new obstacle in the way to the achievement of a just and overall peace and that the attack is a serious violation of the sovereignty of a UN member state and a violation of the UN Charter and the norms of international law.

3. That Egypt asks all the states, particularly the five big states, to assume their responsibility and act to halt the aggression immediately and achieve the Israeli withdrawal.

I also held quick diplomatic contacts with the Security Council member states, and I notified them of the following:

1. That the Israeli aggression confirms that Israel is still pursuing expansionist policies running counter to the efforts which Egypt has exerted and which have been supported by the whole world in order to achieve a just peace.

2. That this aggression creates a grave situation which the world must face. I asked these states to condemn the Israeli aggression as a matter of necessity and to adopt decisive and expeditious stands which would halt this aggression, bring about Israel's immediate withdrawal from Lebanese territory and make Israel halt its acts of aggression against the Palestinian people.

Egypt has also carried out contacts through its UN delegation with the fraternal Arab states to invite the Security Council to convene and adopt the immediate necessary measures to halt the Israeli aggression and to achieve an immediate withdrawal. The contacts resulted in an Arab agreement to raise the issue at the Security Council. The instructions which were issued to our delegation in New York were based on the need to place what happened in Lebanon in a wider strategic framework. Our instructions to our delegation were that it is necessary to cooperate and coordinate with the fraternal Arab states and the friendly states to realize the following:

1. The issuance of a resolution by the Security Council on respecting the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of Lebanon and providing for Israel's immediate withdrawal.

2. The need to concentrate on the fact and reasons for the present situation in Lebanon, which is the result of Israel's desire to expand and deny the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and the need to draw attention to the fact that as long as Israel refuses to recognize these rights, especially the right to self-determination, the area will continue to seethe in anger and will not be able to escape the circle of violence which it entered 30 years ago as a result of the Palestinian people's being deprived of their homeland.

3. The need to stabilize conditions in southern Lebanon even if it is necessary to dispatch UN emergency forces to protect Lebanese territory from the ambitions of Israel until the Lebanese National Army is ready to defend its territory.

My meetings with the ambassadors of the various states and with our delegation in New York continued throughout yesterday. I also met with a PLO delegation and explained the Egyptian stand to its members. I assured them of our support for the heroic struggle of the Palestinian and Lebanese people against the treacherous Israeli aggression. We continue to follow up all developments and details of the situation and we are receiving reports from New York, Lebanon and all other sides. A draft resolution has been submitted to the Security Council. Contacts in regard to this resolution are continuing.

Members of the People's Assembly, Israel, as I have explained, was looking for an opportunity to exploit in order to try to escape from the dilemma in which it found itself after its stands had been completely exposed before the world as a result of the Egyptian efforts and activities.

Hence, we have moved quickly in all directions to see to it that the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon is swiftly liquidated, that the Palestinian people's strength is maintained and that matters return to their normal course. The normal course is the course of striving to reach a just, permanent and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on complete withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the attainment of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, above all their right to self-determination.

Israel must comprehend the following facts:

1. Experience has proved that its policy has utterly failed to take it out of the cycle of violence which has accompanied it since its birth. More so, this policy has been the direct cause for the proliferation of acts of violence in the area over the past 30 years.

2. Attempts at expansion will achieve no result except continued wars because Egypt and the Arab states will under no circumstances tolerate the Israeli Government's continuing in its attempt to fulfill ambitions that are totally contradictory and inconsistent with the system of international law.

The past few days Egypt has acted from a position of its realization and sound and vigilant comprehension of the situation and its dimensions. It has made efforts to stop the aggression and bring about immediate withdrawal to preserve Lebanon's territory and sovereignty and to protect the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples against the systematic acts of violence and terror perpetrated by Israel. Egypt has also acted to again steer the course of events toward the emphasis on the efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just peace, which Israel is trying to evade.

Within the context of these objectives Egypt welcomes any efforts to unify the Arab stands to confront the aggressive Israeli policies. Proposals have been made for convening Arab conferences at various levels. I wish to affirm that Egypt agrees in principle to these efforts and is studying all these proposals proceeding from its conviction that what is important is not the meeting itself but the fact that the Arabs are meeting in circumstances allowing them to rise up to the level of their responsibility.

Until this is achieved, Egypt will remain true to its destiny and sincere in its responsibility. Egypt refuses to indulge in abuses or outbidding and refuses to exploit the opportunity to settle certain accounts but seeks with persistence and courage to uphold the banner of Arab rights.

Israel's nervousness shows that Israel feels that it is in a critical position vis-a-vis the Egyptian efforts for peace. This motivates us to continue our efforts while at the same time preparing to confront Israel's nervousness. Israel has come to realize that regardless of its attempts it will have to yield to the demands for a just peace by totally withdrawing from all territory occupied in 1967 and by recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Brother members of the assembly, I believe that I have briefly thrown light on some aspects of the events and Egypt's attitude toward them.

Palestine is continuing and the heroic Palestinian people are bravely and courageously confronting the fierce aggression. International contacts aimed at defeating the new Israeli aggression are continuing. Therefore, I ask you to allow me to return to my post to follow up the events. I would like to assure you once again that Egypt, under As-Sadat's leadership, strongly and firmly defends the rights of all the Arabs, opposes Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy and seeks, with determination and strength, a just, comprehensive and lasting peace which will achieve complete rights for the Arab states and their people.

We are confident that our honest struggle will achieve its noble goals thanks to the rallying of our noble Arab people around their leadership.

FOREIGN MINISTER KAMIL MEETS WITH PLO DELEGATION

NC181558Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 18 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 March--This afternoon Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil met with a Palestinian delegation composed of PLO Executive Committee members Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani and Majdi Abu Ramadan and deputy director of the PLO Political Department Sa'id Kamal. The Palestinian delegation briefed Foreign Minister Kamil on the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and the latest developments in the situation there.

ENVOY ADDRESSES UN SECURITY COUNCIL ON LEBANON

LD182320Y Cairo MENA in English 2129 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Text] United Nations, March 17 (MENA)--Following is the speech by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, the Egyptian permanent representative of Egypt [as received] to the United Nations, before the Security Council on the complaint of the Lebanese Government.

I would like to thank you and other members of the council for inviting me to participate in the debate on this serious and dangerous matter about which my country cannot be left unaffected. Once again the council is faced with a serious situation in the Middle East resulting from the deliberate policy and irresponsible actions of Israel's gradual expansion. The consequences of this naked Israeli invasion of Lebanon is not confined to Lebanon only but extended to the whole area and do [as received] adversely affect the efforts to reach a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. This Israeli aggression against Lebanon was very aptly described by the secretary general, and I quote, "a violation of the (?boundaries) of a sovereign state and the massive use of force, whatever the motivation of this action may have been" unquote. This is indeed the case, since on the other hand the Lebanese Government, in the letters addressed by its permanent representative to the United Nations to the secretary general, Document A/33/66 and S/12602, has declared that Lebanon had no connection with the operation on the road between Haifa and Tel Aviv or with any other commando operation, and on the other by the admission of the Israeli leaders themselves that the massive use of force is not in retaliation for the sad and tragic events that took place in Israel last Saturday, but to establish a security zone in southern Lebanon from which they have no intention to withdraw.

These statements are rather ominous. Are they the preface for the occupation of yet another Arab country?

This is not the first time that the council discussed the (?subject of) Israeli attacks, incursions and invasions of Lebanon. The council has passed many resolutions. Let me refer to only some of them: Resolution 262 of 31 December 1968, adopted unanimously, in which the council condemned Israel for its premeditated military action in violation of its obligations under the charter and the cease-fire resolutions, and solemnly issued a warning to Israel that if such acts were to be repeated the council would have to consider further steps to give effect to its decision; Resolution 270 of 26 August 1969, in which the council condemned the premeditated air attack by Israel on villages in southern Lebanon in violation of its obligations under the charter and Security Council resolutions.

Again, Mr President, there is Council Resolution 280 of 19 May 1970, in which the council deplored the failure of Israel to abide by Resolutions 262 and 270 and then condemned Israel once again for its premeditated military action and declared that such armed attacks can no longer be tolerated, and repeated its solemn warning to Israel.

The list of council resolutions, Mr President, goes on and on. There is also Resolution 313 of 28 February 1972, Resolution 317 of 21 July 1972, Resolution 332 of 21 April 1972, Resolution 337 of 15 August 1973, Resolution 347 of 24 April 1974. These resolutions do not exhaust the list of aggressive acts operated by Israel against the political independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon, for many are the cases with which the council was not seized. [sentence as received] The latest took place on November 9, 1977, where more than 100 persons were killed.

All these attacks were characterized by two things:

First: They are premeditated attacks by Israel as the council decided in its resolutions.

Second: They are coupled by the use of massive force, which (?resulted in) great loss of civilian lives.

But the latest Israeli action, although it followed the pattern of previous attacks, was larger in scope and magnitude. The Israeli generals are priding themselves on their accuracy of hitting refugee camps and other civilian targets where untold losses among the innocent civilian occurred. I will not go into details about the Israeli attack. My distinguished colleague the ambassador of Lebanon has done that in the complaint he sent to the secretary general on 15 March 1978 and in his statement before the council today.

But I would like to draw the attention of the council to the report of 15 March 1978 of the chief of staff of United Nations Truce Supervision, UNTSO, on the status of the cease-fire in the Israel-Lebanon sector. This report is published in Document S/1 663/add.53. In spite of the limited manpower at the disposal of the chief of staff, and in spite that some of their posts came under fire and were destroyed, he was able to report on some aspects of the Israeli attack, in particular on its ferocity and indiscriminate nature. Mr President, the reports of the chief of staff of UNTSO, about what Israel calls its incursions into Lebanese territory, are numerous and are not confined to the latest Israeli attack. I would like to draw the attention of the council to a particular observation by the chief of staff in his previous reports during the last few years and "Israeli forces personnel continued to occupy six positions on the Lebanese side of the armistice demarcation line" [as received].

A permanent presence of Israeli forces on Lebanese territory has always been a cherished aim of Israeli policy. The size and nature of the latest Israeli act of aggression, coupled with various statements of Israeli leaders to the effect of establishing what they call a security belt in southern Lebanon from which Israel will not withdraw, certainly go very far in proving the true intent of its latest endeavors.

The statements that emanate from Israel that it has no intentions of occupying Lebanese territory are belied by the facts. The council should bear in mind that similar statements were made before by Israeli leaders, yet 10 years after the occupation of territories belonging to three members of the United Nations with the addition now of territories belonging to a fourth member, namely Lebanon, these territories remain occupied. The council should by now be wary of such statements and should assert itself in the face of the arrogant behaviour of Israel.

Egypt considers the massive Israeli aggression carried by land, air and sea as a serious development in the course of events in the Middle East and a new Israeli violation of the provisions of the United Nations Charter. It also adds a new obstacle in the way of achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Israel's resorting once again to acts of aggression is all the more serious since these acts aim at liquidating the Palestinians, because they are Palestinians. These acts of aggression constitute a systematic attempt at the extermination of the Palestinian people and a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of a United Nations member state.

In this context the foreign minister of Egypt in his statement on March 15 pointed out the gravity of the statements made of the Israeli chief of staff on Israel's intention to establish a so-called Israeli security belt inside the Lebanese territories.

These acts and aggressive policies mean that Israel still believes that her security can be achieved through aggression, occupation and expansion, rather than through a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on the principles of the United Nations Charter and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

In view of the policy of the Israeli Government, its attempts to impose interpretations of the United Nations Resolution 242 which have no basis in logic or law, its continued policy of establishing settlements and its aggression against both Lebanon and the Palestinian people, Egypt affirms that these developments do impede peace efforts and herald more serious implications in the future.

Egypt, therefore, believes that the whole world, especially the five permanent members of the Security Council, should assume their responsibilities to put forthwith an end to the Israeli aggression, so that the necessary climate should be created to allow the efforts for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East to be pursued on the basis of the respect for the rights of the Palestinian people and Israel's total withdrawal from the occupied territories.

It is apparent now that Israeli attacks against Lebanon in the last years did not bring security to Israel but led only to untold losses among the civilian population and also acts of violence against Israel.

This vicious circle will not end unless Israel comes to grips with the core of the Middle East problem; that is, to address itself directly and quickly to the solution to the Palestinian question. Israel will not deny any more or postpone the moment of truth--that there is a Palestinian people who has the same right to live in peace and security as all other people.

Denying the most basic of human rights to the Palestinian people, namely its right to self-determination, will unfortunately lead only to more violence and bloodshed. Nobody, foremost Israel, will benefit from such short-sighted policy. It will only lead to more tension in the area and would endanger peace and security in the world.

As I said earlier in my statement, the situation is serious and calls for immediate action on the part of the council. It is the conviction of my government that the first order of business before the council is to call urgently for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Lebanon and cease forthwith its encroachment on the territorial integrity of a member state of the United Nations. Every hour passing without an action from the council adds to more loss of lives of innocent people.

Prompt action is dictated by the gravity of the situation and imposed on the council by the charter of the United Nations. The council should not allow itself to be distracted from dealing with the very real situation of the occupation by Israel of Lebanese territory, by permitting dilatory tactics to consume precious time.

The council might also wish to request the secretary general to report on the compliance by Israel with the decisions to be taken by the council on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces. The secretary general will be assisted in this respect by the United Nations presence in the area; i.e., the members of UNTSO stationed in the Israel-Lebanon sector. Therefore members of UNTSO should return to their posts from which they were evicted.

We believe that the council should remain seized [as received] of the present situation in Lebanon until all its decisions are complied with, first and foremost the immediate and total withdrawal of Israel.

KAMIL MEETS WITH YAR, U.S., BRITISH AMBASSADORS

NC181545Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has met with the YAR ambassador in Cairo. They exchanged views on the developments in the Arab situation, the events in Lebanon and the YAR proposal that an Arab summit conference be convened.

The foreign minister has also met with the U.S. ambassador in Cairo within the framework of Egypt's contacts regarding the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the need for halting this aggression and for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanese territory.

The foreign minister also met with the British ambassador in Cairo. The ambassador later said that Britain supports the adoption of a Security Council resolution calling for immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and for stationing UN peacekeeping forces there.

[illegible] RECEIVES JORDANIAN MINISTER OF STATE

NC191223Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1152 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 March--Vice President Husni Mubarak today received Jordanian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim, who handed him a letter from King Husayn to President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat. The meting was attended by Jordan's Ambassador in Cairo Dhuqan al-Hindawi, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz and the director of Husni Mubarak's office for political affairs.

Jordanian Official's Statement

NC191639Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1617 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 March--Hasan Ibrahim, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo this afternoon after a brief visit to Egypt lasting several hours. The Jordanian minister stated before his departure that he handed Vice President Husni Mubarak a message for President Anwar as-Sadat from King Husayn on the call for an Arab summit conference, in view of the difficult circumstances, in order to draw up a comprehensive Arab plan to confront the Israeli aggression and safeguard the Arab future.

He added that during his meeting with Husni Mubarak they exchanged views on the present critical situation. The Jordanian minister added that he found Egypt very confident and conscientious about the current issues and about moving toward the future in a manner that will achieve a unified Arab action.

Hasan Ibrahim condemned the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. He said: We denounce this serious aggression and see it as a move to occupy more Arab territory. This action exposes the Israeli position aimed at continuous expansion, and it clearly shows that Israel has no desire to promote a comprehensive peaceful settlement and a just peace in the Middle East. The Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, he said, is a flagrant attempt to strike at the Palestinian people and prevent the exercise of their legitimate right to their territory and homeland.

Statement to JNA

JN191930Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] In a statement to the JNA Cairo correspondent following the meeting, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim said that the Jordanian move is based on His Majesty King Husayn's speech to the Arab nation about the current Arab situation, the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the future of the Arab world. He said that His Majesty King Husayn's speech is aimed at restoring Arab solidarity, unifying ranks and achieving joint Arab action. Hasan Ibrahim left Cairo for Tripoli to convey a similar message from His Majesty King Husayn to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

SAUDI KING KHALID SENDS MESSAGE TO AS-SADAT

NC192343Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2338 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 March--The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that President Anwar as-Sadat has received a message from King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. In its Monday edition the paper says that the message deals with the need to unify Arab efforts at this decisive phase.

SECURITY COUNCIL INFORMED OF STAND ON LEBANON

JN191052Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1038 GMT 19 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad 19 March--The Foreign Ministry has conveyed to a number of members of the UN Security Council Iraq's stand on southern Lebanon. This stand stresses the need of the Zionist forces' immediate withdrawal and Iraq's rejection of any proposals which may circumvent this goal.

The Foreign Ministry this morning summoned the representatives of these countries and informed them of this. This action is within the framework of Iraq's moves concerning the current situation in the Arab area, which arises from the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon and the U.S. attempts to cover up this aggression with draft resolutions to be submitted to the Security Council. These resolutions are intended to give time and the means to the Zionist entity to implement its policy of aggression aimed at liquidating the Palestinian Arab people.

MESSAGE ON SOUTHERN LEBANON SENT TO WALDHEIM

JN190758Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 19 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 March--The Iraqi Government has sent a message to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim pointing out the gravity of the situation arising from the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon which aims at liquidating the Palestinian Arab people. In the message the Iraqi Government asks that the United Nations face up to its responsibility and achieve immediate withdrawal of the Zionist forces from Lebanon and stop the liquidation of the Palestinian people.

BA'TH PARTY PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS

JN172256Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has pledged the support of the Iraqi revolution and party for the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and expressed their readiness to offer all kinds of backing and support to enable the joint forces in Lebanon confront and foil the Zionist aggression.

In a statement issued last night [17 March] through a spokesman of the command, the Ba'th Party called on the struggling Arab masses to show their courage and move on all levels to pressure all regimes which are moving on the path of the capitulatory settlement and to pressure all the wavering regimes and force them to abandon this path and commit themselves to the path of struggle, which is the only way to establish the peace cherished by our nation. This path, the command said, was paved by our martyrs and is now being paved by the heroic marytrs of the resistance who are bravely facing a large-scale military offensive.

The Ba'th Party National Command saluted the brave fighters who are fighting the war of the Arab nation in southern Lebanon and saluted the martyrs of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, who are eradicating with their blood the marks of the disgrace of capitulation and humiliation.

The statement says: The treacherous and large-scale Zionist aggression, which has been directed against Lebanon for the past 2 days and which is aimed mainly at its southern part, is an advanced and serious link in the dubious imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plot to rearrange the situation in the region, thus enabling its planners to impose a humiliating settlement on the Arab nation by striking at the progressive national and pan-Arab forces which are opposed to this plot.

It is also meant to enable the planners to liquidate the Palestinian resistance, particularly its armed presence on Lebanese territory. The aggression is great and fierce. This is in addition to the brazen statements by the leaders of the Zionist entity about the occupation of southern Lebanon and staying there. This would mean the final expulsion of the Palestinian resistance from Lebanon and robbing it of its last position close to occupied Palestine, from which it can exercise its legitimate right of defending its usurped homeland, after it was denied this right in all the countries adjacent to occupied Palestine. This would also mean that a new Arab territory would be added to the Arab territories which have been usurped by the Zionist enemy in his aggression against the Arab nation. Therefore, the Arab nation, represented by its masses, forces, parties and regimes, is asked to take a stand commensurate with this large-scale aggression and its serious aims. The international community, which has condemned Zionism as a racist movement after becoming aware of its identity and realizing its murderous goals, is also asked to take a stand equal to this aggression and its aims.

The Arab nation is asked today to stand firmly by the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and to aid them with all assistance and backing, so they can stand in the face of this aggression and foil its aims. The nations close to the battlefield must put their resources in support of the resistance and supply it with the necessary backing. They must also facilitate the passage of the aid sent by the fraternal states and deliver this aid to the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement so as to strengthen their ability to stand and persevere.

The National Command of the Ba'th Party announces the support of the revolution and the party in Iraq for the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and Iraq's readiness to offer all kinds of backing and support to enable them to stand in the face of this treacherous aggression and foil it. The command calls on the struggling Arab masses to show their courage and move on all levels to pressure the regimes which are moving on the path of the capitulatory settlement and to pressure all the wavering regimes and force them to finally abandon this path and commit themselves to the path of struggle. This is the only way to establish the peace cherished by our nation. This path was paved by our martyrs and is now being trod by the heroic martyrs of the resistance who are bravely facing a large-scale military offensive.

We salute the brave fighters who are fighting the war of the Arab nation in southern Lebanon and we salute the martyrs of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, who are eradicating with their blood the marks of disgrace of capitulation and humiliation.

KING HUSAYN ADDRESSES NATION ON LEBANESE EVENTS

JN1719Z1Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1810 GMT 17 Mar 78 JN

[Address to nation by Jordan's King Husayn--presumably live]

[Text] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful; brother citizens, brother Arabs everywhere: I send you my sincerest and heartfelt love and wishes for prosperity and success. I talk to you while every particle of my being shakes with pain over what has recently been revealed about the reality of our nation and about the regrettable state this nation has arrived at.

During the past 2 days the chapters of a great catastrophe which afflicted the Arab nation have been completed. The full repercussions of this catastrophe have not yet entered our national conscience. The Israeli forces of aggression have moved from the northern Israeli borders under the cover of various excuses and justifications and forcefully occupied a large area of Lebanese territory, entrenched themselves and presented a new political, geographic, and military reality to the Arab nation and the world. The world has not moved in reaction to this and has not even voiced absolute condemnation. The Arab homeland has also not moved; it has not moved in a courageous, enthusiastic or [illegible] manner, despite the appearance of certain voices of pain and condemnation in some parts of the Arab homeland--voices without any unity, organization or clearness of aim and direction. This latest and newest aggression is serious because of its significance and goals. It changes the strategic picture between us and Israel, and creates a new political and psychological situation, and confronts the world with a serious and new reality. What is more serious is the Arab position [of weakness] which has been exposed by the latest aggression and the painful realities which have appeared through these latest events.

The Israeli aggressors did not hesitate to carry out this step or to announce it beforehand [as heard], thus paving the way for it and preparing the world psychological atmosphere they wanted.

The entire Arab homeland has not moved in a collective, organized, effective, gallant and courageous way to repel the aggression, to prevent it, to stop the massacre aimed against the Palestinian brothers, or even to face the situation in a unified and organized manner.

The fall of a part of Lebanese territory to occupation within the sight and hearing of the Arabs and the world is but a new example of Israeli expansion in the Arab homeland. The previous examples of expansion in the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan, the Sinai and even the erosion of the Palestinian territory itself moved stage by stage. As Lebanon and the Palestinian people present, they are the target of the aggression at this stage. Every part of the Arab homeland is exposed and can be a target tomorrow or the day after.

Personally, I warned at the various summit conferences before and after the June 1967 catastrophe against the Zionist ambitions in southern Lebanon and the sources of the Jordan River. I called for paying attention to the delicate situation in Lebanon until all means are insured for Lebanon to defend itself and to safeguard its territory, since it is located in an area close to the danger. Lebanon constitutes the longest front with the enemy after the Jordanian front.

Now that Israel is occupying southern Lebanon, the picture of the Zionist Israeli scheme is strengthening in the minds of the conscious sons of our nation. Will the Arab nation continue to watch while its parts are eroded, its limbs cut, its area decreased and its dignity humiliated without being able to prevent, stop or at least confront this with a serious attempt to resist the spread of the disease? Will the nation persist in being torn by its differences, lost in the labyrinths to which the conflicts of its leaders lead?

Can we deduce from the atmosphere of resignation, immobility and even indifference in our large homeland that our nation not only lacks planning, organization and joint and purposeful action, but that it has started to lose some of the primary inherent traits which we have known throughout our history; that is, chivlary, compassion and pride? These questions which crop up in the minds of our nation's sons and which burden my soul are present in my conscience and that of every Arab leader. Our Arab leaders have the responsibility to respond to these questions with wise and courageous answers not influenced by useless emotion, hatred toward oneself and our brothers, or by placing blame on others. One of the first facts is that we are in need of an urgent meeting at the highest level of leadership in the Arab homeland to consult and discuss things frankly and to agree on an urgent and profound plan of action. It is not permissible for this new catastrophe to pass without any action by the Arab leaders to confront it and to prevent the new occupation from becoming entrenched, particularly in view of the world's lethargy toward this new situation. We are aware that the situation created by the latest Israeli aggression creates a new reality involving the Israeli aggression creates a new reality involving the Israeli expansionist forces and their objectives against the Arab nation and its unity and civilized existence. The series of interactions which might be initiated by this new aggression are interactions desired by the enemy, interactions which could lead to further dismemberment in the Arab framework around Israel. These interactions could also lead to the dispersion and dislocation of our national unity and to a dangerous setback for our historic march and progress. We are hearing the thoughts of our enemies in what is being published and broadcast. We realize what the courageous and revolutionary Arab generations felt at the start of this century, feelings arising from fears of conspiracy against the future of the nation and its destiny and unity.

We also realize the dangers of the coming steps in the hostile conspiracy if the Arabs do not face it with a solid wall of unity, power, determination and firmness. If we in Jordan are more aware, feel deeper pain, and have more foresight in evaluating the danger and historic challenge, this is because we are facing this directly, geographically, psychologically and intellectually. This is also because Jordan's modern history began with the struggle of a great man, the founder of this kingdom, who did his best to save the country from the clutches of the Balfour Declaration and Zionist greed, which are being renewed daily. The required meeting of Arab leaders must at least be one having profound effects, if not resulting in a commitment; namely, that confronting Israeli expansionist aggression is a pan-Arab commitment not exclusive to the Palestinian people or the confrontation states alone. Building Arab strength is the road to confrontation and steadfastness. The strength we need is comprehensive strength based on construction in every field and on the unity of efforts and action.

We must also mobilize the huge potential put into the hands of the Arabs by divine will. I have previously said and say again that if we want to oppose Israeli expansionist steps, reduce the enemy to his proper size, and force him to be governed by the logic of international norms and the concept of a just peace, we must build sufficient Arab strength which will be capable of changing the present power formula and imposing a fundamental change on the thinking of the Israeli leadership and the international powers standing beside it.

Within the framework of the comprehensive Arab plan, all work aimed at resisting aggression and at struggling for the sake of Palestinian rights, the Palestinian cause, and the Arab national goals must be organized.

Of all the Arab states, Jordan is most aware of the importance of placing the tremendous Arab resources in the service of our nation and of building our strength. We are on the confrontation line and we are a target. We protect our Arab nation behind us and, on behalf of our brothers, bear the brunt of the shocks, pressures, hardships of steadfastness and pains of making difficult decisions. Just as we appreciate the significance of national responsibility with all our conscience and feelings, we also know the value of strong Arab solidarity, joint Arab action, collective international moves and the effective force which comes through the feeling of unity and through the knowledge that the Arab resources--if put in the service of the common cause and of unified action--will confront the enemy's strength in one stage after another.

Brother citizens, I call on all the brother Arab leaders to rise and cope with these serious historic circumstances. I call on our beloved citizens and the sons of our armed forces to be aware and alert, to feel their responsibility and to think clearly. Let us bear in our hearts the hope that this latest setback will change--through the heroism demonstrated by the heroic resistance and the sacrifices of our faithful martyrs on Palestinian, Lebanese and other territories--into a beacon to guide the Arab nation on the path of its just and long struggle.

Peace and the blessings of God be with you.

NATIONALIST MOVEMENT MEETS ON CURRENT SITUATION

JN181053Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 18 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 18 March--The emergency committee of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement held an extraordinary meeting after midnight and discussed the grave situation arising from the continuing and escalating savage Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon.

The committee reviewed the course of fighting in the south, which reveals the Zionist determination to expand the area of occupation, the expansion which was halted by the heroic steadfastness shown by the joint forces of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and Palestinian resistance in the face of the enemy forces and his artillery, tanks and aircraft. The committee also discussed the Arab and international political perspectives of this war which the Zionist enemy is launching with the encouragement and under the silence of Arab reaction and U.S. imperialism.

During its meeting the committee approved a number of decisions for extending immediate assistance to tens of thousands of families which left their villages and towns as a result of the Zionist savage aggression which entered its fourth day today.

Appeals to Masses

JN182009Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 18 March--The Central Political Council of the Progressive and Nationalist Parties and forces in Lebanon today appealed to the Lebanese masses and called on them to fight to liberate Lebanese territory and make the enemy withdraw without conditions.

A statement issued by the council this evening stressed the decision of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement to continue fighting to liberate Lebanese territory. The council stressed the Nationalist Movement's determination to mobilize its forces and the resources of the nationalist masses to struggle with all means in order to force the enemy to halt his aggression and to withdraw from southern Lebanon. The Nationalist Movement also stressed its rejection of Zionist blackmail and all the conditions aimed at perpetuating Zionist control of southern Lebanon or all of Lebanon.

The statement called on the Lebanese authorities to shoulder thier full national responsibility toward clear commitment to the demand for complete, unconditional Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, to facilitate the mobilization of the national resources in order to liberate the land, and to fulfill the requirements for swift handling of the social problems created by the enemy occupation, foremost of which is the problem of the evacuees.

In its statement the Nationalist Movement appealed to Arab brothers, pointing out the reality of the criminal aggression. The Nationalist Movement said that the aggression against our people and the Zionist occupation of our land is aimed not only at swallowing up Lebanese land and liquidating the Palestinian presence but also at all the Arabs in their conflict with the Zionist invasion, which, with support from U.S. imperialism, wants to impose domination over the Arab area. The Nationalist Movement called for a firm Arab stand, pooling Arab military and material resources around the Lebanese Nationalist struggle to liberate the land. The Nationalist Movement called on friends and allies in the world to support the people's struggle to liberate their land in the face of Israeli plans and U.S. imperialist maneuvers.

BA'TH PARTY DEMANDS ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL

JN1823487 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2315 GMT 18 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The regional command of the Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon held a meeting tonight in which it discussed the situation in light of the current developments in southern Lebanon and the Arab and international moves to confront the Zionist invasion. In a statement the regional command saluted the steadfastness of the southern Lebanese people in confronting the Zionist invasion and called for the complete withdrawal of the invading forces from all the Lebanese territories. The statement said in conclusion: We strongly reject any solution or effort which bypasses the return of Lebanese sovereignty over all the Lebanese territory and the full guarantee of the immediate withdrawal from the Lebanese territories.

MARONITE LEAGUE ISSUES STATEMENT ON SITUATION

NC1819247 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 18 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Maronite League [Ar-Rabitah al-Maruniyah] held a meeting this morning under the chairmanship of lawyer Shakir Abu Sulayman to discuss the situation in Lebanon, particularly in the border area, following the Israeli military operations in the south and the Lebanese complaint to the UN Security Council. Later, lawyer Shakir Abu Sulayman released the following statement on behalf of the Maronite League:

All those following the violations in the Lebanese arena have not been surprised by the current events. Several violations were committed in southern Lebanon while the Lebanese authority failed to exercise its sovereignty over the area. Now that the fate of Lebanon hangs in the balance and the Lebanese, particularly the citizens in the south, are homeless in their own country, we draw the attention of officials and citizens alike to the following facts:

1. It is time that the authority put before the UN Security Council clearly and boldly the Lebanese question in relation to Lebanon's future and sovereignty over its territory and demand the withdrawal of the Israelis and Palestinians from Lebanese territory.

2. The authority should ask for the deployment of UN forces to secure the Lebanese border and coordinate with the Lebanese Army in order to restore law and order within the country to enable the state to reinstate its complete sovereignty over all its territory and put an end to all violations.

3. We demand that the authorities immediately declare to the world the abrogation of all agreements with the PLO, since these agreements have dispossessed the state of its sovereignty, paralyzed its activity and forced the Lebanese to take up arms in defense of their land and sovereignty.

4. We demand that the authorities refuse entry to Arab forces on the pretext of aiding the forces fighting on Lebanese territory. The authority's consent was not sought in this respect, as though Lebanese territory was freely open to all. Previous experience shows that such forces which ignore the lawful authority and enter the country on the pretext of fighting Israel would then turn against the Lebanese and transfer their differences with other Arab states in order to settle them on Lebanese territory. This would consequently plunge Lebanon into a whirlpool of Arab and international conflicts, the price of which would be paid by the Lebanese people alone. It is time to stop tampering with the fate of this homeland.

AL-HUSS, 'ARAFAT DISCUSS PRESENT DEVELOPMENTS

NC181330Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister al-Huss yesterday evening met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Hani al-Hasan, political adviser of the PLO chairman, attended the meeting. At this meeting, which lasted 90 minutes, present developments were reviewed.

Prime Minister al-Huss made a statement in which he said: The gravity of the human tragedies which Lebanon is now experiencing as the result of the Israeli aggression defies description. I have no doubt that the horrible killing, destruction and destitution which are occurring and the tragic social state of affairs ensuing from all these things will inevitably shake the world's conscience and force it to stand on Lebanon's side in its painful tribulation in a way which will insure the halting of the aggression, the withdrawal of the Israelis and the return of the southern area to the control of the Lebanese authority.

AL-HUSS MEETS WITH 'ARAFAT'S ADVISER AL-HASAN

NC171901Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister al-Huss today met in Government House with Hani al-Hasan, the political adviser of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. During the 35-minute meeting the latest developments were reviewed. Consultations were also held on the efforts which are being exerted to halt the Israeli acts of aggression.

BUTRUS, PLO'S LABADI COMMENT ON SITUATION

LD171111Y Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Mar 78 pp 1, 3 LD

[Lucien George dispatch: "Beirut: Palestinians Unable To Offer Serious Resistance"]

[Excerpt] Beirut--Although of considerable intensity, the Israeli reprisal attack, expected since Sunday, was still confined south of the Litani River late Wednesday morning; that is, in an area where the Syrian Army is not deployed.

While the operation is in progress, main questions are being asked in Beirut: Will the Israelis withdraw when they have achieved their military objectives and what terms will they demand for this withdrawal? Will they avoid the areas occupied by the Syrian Army, which was the intention expressed in their communique? Finally, will Syria keep its troops out of the battle as long as they are not in contact with Israel's troops? Or will Damascus take the view that its presence in Lebanon and its commitments to the Palestinians compel it to intervene so that it will not be accused of passiveness for the same reasons as the Lebanese Army in the past?

There is also speculation as to whether the operation will not be followed, a few days or a few weeks later, by a spectacular raid whose target would be one of the leaders of the PLO, or more precisely Fatah.

Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus made a statement to us, voicing fears of regional complications and actual Israeli occupation: "The large-scale attack against southern Lebanon and the consequences it may entail for Lebanon and the area as a whole are extremely serious," he said. "Israel is in no way entitled to justify itself by pleading the Tel Aviv attack as an excuse. That country is in fact responsible for the causes which led to this attack, whereas Lebanon bears no responsibility.

One may seriously wonder what objective Israel is trying to achieve by an attack on this scale and in the present circumstances. Lebanon will take all the measures likely to protect its national interests and its territorial integrity."

Taking the initiative, Mr Butrus conferred as early as Monday with the U.S. ambassador in Beirut. It appears that Washington was unwilling to make any promises, and American diplomats in Lebanon have looked rather embarrassed over the past 2 days.

Moreover, sources in Damascus report that some top Syrian officials have privately expressed serious concern about the effects of the Tel Aviv raid and the risk of Syria becoming involved.

For his part, PLO spokesman Mahmud Labadi sees in "the attack against southern Lebanon another demonstration of Israel's arrogance." He assured us that "the Palestinian and Lebanese progressive forces are putting up heroic resistance to this cowardly attack and striving to prevent the Zionist enemy from accomplishing its expansionist aims."

RIGHTISTS DEMAND WITHDRAWAL OF JOINT FORCES

JN181710Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Rightist elements in Lebanon have renewed their demands that the joint forces of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement withdraw from southern Lebanon. Responsible rightist sources say that they are prepared to exercise pressure aimed at the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from southern Lebanon provided it is guaranteed that the joint forces leave the south. The sources declined to reveal in what way the rightists will exercise this pressure.

It is know that the rightist forces facilitated the entry of the forces of the Zionist enemy to Lebanese territory and helped them to advance toward the joint forces' positions. The rightist forces are closely connected with the Zionist enemy. This was proved by the enemy's assistance to them during their fighting against the Palestinian and the Nationalist forces and the visits exchanged between the Zionist racists and the rightists.

AL-JUMAYYIL MAKES STATEMENT ON SITUATION IN SOUTH

NC171640Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] In a statement made today, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil called the attention of all Lebanese and Arab leaders to the serious plans drawn up for Lebanon in general and the south in particular. He warned against falling into a trap aimed at evacuating the remaining Lebanese citizens from southern Lebanon so that others may occupy it. He called on the Islamic Grouping and the Lebanese front to issue a joint statement rejecting the occupation of southern Lebanon by non-Lebanese.

Al-Jumayyil said: Time and again we have said that if the presence of armed Palestinians in the south were in the interest of Lebanon, Palestinians and the Arabs, we would spare no sacrifice. But if such chaotic presence leads to the destruction of Lebanon and all causes and draws the Arabs into battles in which they have no say or view, it is time that the Arab states put an end to such anomalous practices.

Al-Jumayyil said: All we are demanding is the implementation of the Cairo, Shtawrah and Riyadh agreement. The Arab states have shown that they are incapable of implementing these agreements.

Consequently, the Arab states have paved the way for Israeli actions within Lebanese territory.

Al-Jumayyil wondered about the significance of dispatching armed Iraqi forces to Lebanese territory to support the Palestinians in their confrontation with Israel on Lebanese territory and the reescalation of the situation and said: If there is a real desire to oppose Israel it should be within the framework of a general Arab action. Or can they assure us that by bringing forces from here and there to Lebanon we can confront Israel? Why Lebanon and not elsewhere?

SHAM'UN, DEPUTIES MEET SARKIS, MAKE STATEMENTS

NC181310Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Mar 78 NC

[Text] At the conclusion of his meeting with President Sarkis, former President Sham'un made a statement in which he said: Naturally, we have discussed the measures which are being taken, which can be taken and which will be taken by the Security Council. There is a full understanding between us and the president of the republic on what must be done so that security will prevail in Lebanon--not only in one area of Lebanon but throughout Lebanese territory.

On this occasion I must express words of sorrow and pain for the innocent Lebanese victims who have fallen during the latest military operations and to the evacuees who have been forced to leave their property and land. The cherished southern area has for long endured this suffering. Former President Sham'un added: I have never seen such comprehensive concern for Lebanon's sovereignty over its territory as I have seen recently.

Deputy Father Sim'an ad-Duwayhi made a statement in which he said: We have visited his excellency the president to assess the course of the latest development which Lebanon is now undergoing. We have informed his excellency of all the contacts which the government has held in all domains--contacts which enjoy our total support.

Deputy Bachus said: The objective of the moves we are making is to contribute to creating an atmosphere which would restore the unity of all the Lebanese. Deputy 'Ali al-Khalil said: The discussion has dealt with the Israeli attack and the steps which the state has taken to deal with the situation in the south.

More on Sham'un Statement

NC181556Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 18 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis today discussed with former President Camille Sham'un the current situation in the border area and the measures which have adopted in this respect. Sarkis also met with Minister of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Dr Fu'ad Butrus, with whom he evaluated the progress of the Lebanese complaint before the UN Security Council.

Upon leaving B'abda Palace, Sham'un said that Lebanon endured considerable destruction and violation of sovereignty during the 2-year war and it is still enduring this. Some states have been attempting to feed the fire instead of containing it on the pretext that it was a civil war not affecting Lebanon's sovereignty. These states have a different view of sovereignty than others and they regard the Israeli attack as an aggression, while they consider the Palestinian aggression as a forgivable offense.

SYRIA'S KHADDAM MEETS SARKIS, MAKES STATEMENT

NC171642Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis met today with Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who was accompanied by Deputy Defense Minister and Air Forces Commander Maj Gen Naji Jamil. Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus attended the meeting.

On leaving the republican palace at 1515 today, Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam made a statement to newsmen in which he said: I have brought a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother, His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis. The message deals with the Israeli aggression against the south. The message offers Syria's support and backing in order to repulse the Israeli aggression.

He added: The situation has been examined from all angles with His Excellency President Sarkis, His Excellency Prime Minister al-Huss and His Excellency brother Fu'ad Butrus. Furthermore, the various possibilities have been reviewed.

Minister Khaddam was asked: Can you tell us what Syria's stand will be if Lebanon were to ask for the convening of the U.S. Security Council and for UN emergency forces?

He answered: We have discussed the convening of the Security Council and I have learned that the Lebanese Government has decided to call for the convening of the Security Council in accordance with the complaint lodged by this government. There can be no doubt that Syria and all the Arab states stand on the side of brotherly Lebanon against the Israeli aggression and in order to achieve Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territory.

Khaddam was asked: What is your attitude toward a request for UN forces together with regular Lebanese forces to replace the Israeli forces?

He said: It is our opinion that the Lebanese forces, and by this I mean the Lebanese Army, have sovereignty over and the right to protect the south, to restore Lebanese sovereignty over Lebanese territory and to participate in the elimination of the occupation.

Asked about Syria's stand on the UN emergency forces, Khaddam said: This subject has not been discussed because the discussion will take place at the Security Council--and we will be able to express our viewpoint at the Security Council.

Minister Khaddam was asked: Since the army has not yet been completely rebuilt, what will happen if part of this army is sent to the south to carry out tasks?

He said: Anyway, we have learned that the Lebanese Government is studying all these matters in light of the dictates of the national interests. Furthermore, contacts are continuing between the two countries.

Answering another question, he said: President Sarkis has given me a reply message to his brother, President al-Asad.

Khaddam was asked: Has another discussion been held on the possibility of the Arab deterrent forces entering into southern Lebanon.

Minister Khaddam said: We have discussed all matters, particularly in view of the fact that the Israeli aggression is not aimed at Lebanon alone, but at the Palestinian issue. The present events in the south constitute a part of a general design engineered for the area. This design is connected with the attempt to impose capitulatory solutions on the Arab states. There can be no doubt that the Israeli enemy has benefited from the present Arab state of affairs which has emanated from the visit the Egyptian president made to Jerusalem to hold a dialog with the Israelis. We cannot separate this Israeli aggression against the south from this design which, as I have said, is aimed at liquidating the Palestinian issue, causing disarray in the Arab ranks and giving the Israeli enemy further gains.

Minister Khaddam was asked: Is there anything immediate and tangible concerning the Israeli aggression in the wake of this visit? He answered: Syria stands with all that it can do on the side of the Lebanese people and the Palestinian people.

He was also asked: Do you expect a permanent occupation of the south? Khaddam said: The Israeli statements give one to understand that the Israelis want to continue the occupation. There can be no doubt that it is imperative for the Arab states to exert more efforts in all domains to liberate the land, preserve dignity and defend national rights.

Khaddam was asked finally: Have you contacted the Lebanese political leaders?

He replied: At any rate, I have come and brought a message in order to hold discussions with the Lebanese Government. Naturally, I have telephoned former President Franjiyah in view of the amicable and fraternal relations existing between us. Of course, relations exist between us and all the brothers in Lebanon. However, and when we come to the B'abda Palace, we remember former President Franjiyah, who has asked me to convey his greetings to President al-Asad.

Further Report

NC171235Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Today's meeting between President Sarkis and Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam was attended by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus. Before proceeding to Beirut, Minister Khaddam this morning had met with the Soviet ambassador to Syria, who handed Khaddam a letter from President Brezhnev to President Hafiz al-Asad. The letter dealt with the grave situation in southern Lebanon.

At 1220 Prime Minister al-Huss left the meeting room. Meanwhile, President Sarkis continued his meeting with Minister Khaddam and Major General Jamil in the presence of Minister Butrus.

Head of the PLO Military Department Zuhayr Muhsin arrived at the palace at noon. Muhsin immediately met with Minister Khaddam in an office in the palace. We point out that at 1300 Minister Khaddam and Zuhayr Muhsin joined the conferees who were meeting at the republican palace. The commander of the Arab deterrent forces, Lt Col Sami al-Khatib, also joined the conferees.

Mr Muhsin left the palace at 1315. He then made a statement in which he said: We have studied the military situation. It is not bad. Adequate measures have been taken by Syria in order to protect all the areas in which the Arab deterrent forces are deployed.

Answering a question, Muhsin said: The PLO would support any meeting which would decide that Israel should withdraw from the south. Afterward, Minister Khaddam and Arab deterrent forces commander Lieutenant Colonel al-Khatib again joined the meeting which was still going on between President Sarkis and Major General Jamil in the presence of Minister Butrus. Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss returned to the palace at 1330.

PLO'S ZUHAYR MUHSIN DISCUSSES SYRIA'S POSITION

NC171320Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Text] On leaving the presidential palace, Zuhayr Muhsin answered reporters questions, saying: I studied all aspects of the military situation with Minister Khaddam and Lieutenant Colonel al-Khatib. I cannot tell you about what took place among us because it is not right to discuss and disclose military affairs.

Asked whether new measures will be taken after this meeting, Muhsin said: Syria has adopted all measures to protect the areas in Lebanon in which its forces are deployed. Syrian planes are flying in Lebanese skies. They are always ready in an effective manner.

Asked whether the Palestinians would object to Lebanon's application to convene the Security Council, Muhsin said: The PLO has not yet met and has not yet studied the situation. Consequently, it has not yet adopted any decision in this regard. However, the PLO supports every decision which would provide for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territory.

Asked if the Palestinian resistance opposes the idea of requesting the stationing of UN forces along the borders, Muhsin said: This is a political question and I do not involve myself in politics.

Asked about Syria's stand on the Iraqi Government's application to send forces and equipment to the south to help the Palestinian resistance, Muhsin said: The Syrian officials have explained their stand in official statements. They fully agree to the dispatch of any Iraqi arms, ammunition or any other support. However, Iraq has backed down on this. It only said what it said as a matter of outbidding and of spreading lies and it is not serious. He added that [Syrian Foreign Minister] Khaddam went to Lebanon to coordinate with the Lebanese officials. As long as the Israeli attack against the south continues, aid will be welcome from any source. The Lebanese Government is not against confronting the attack.

RAYMOND IDDIH CALLS FOR UN POLICING FORCE

LD171113Y Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Apparent text of 15 March statement by Lebanese National Bloc leader Raymond Iddih: "Raymond Iddih Suggests Stationing UN Forces on Israeli-Lebanese Border"]

[Text] On 15 March Raymond Iddih, deputy for Ibil and leader of the Lebanese national front, told us what follows:

The plan, the plot, against Lebanon has now been implemented. Israel has invaded Lebanon and is heading for the Litani River, whose waters it has been coveting since 1919. It is using the presence of Palestinians in Lebanon--the very Palestinians which it threw out of Palestine--as a pretext to justify all its attacks.

[illegible] questions can now be asked: Will Israel withdraw from Lebanon once its so-called clean-up operation is concluded? Will Hafiz al-Asad's Syrian Army, which by occupying Lebanon under circumstances we are all aware of has undertaken the duty of defending the Palestinians, attack the Israelis, or will it say that it cannot intervene beyond Litani, which represents the noted red line and use this as a pretext? After unfortunate Lebanon has been abandoned by the entire world and following the recent events, will the Security Council meet at last and dispatch UN forces and have them stationed along the Lebanese-Israeli border with a view to putting an end to all invasion, or will Lebanon again be engulfed in a bloodbath and destruction because this is what the powerful of this world want?

OFFICIALS COMMENT ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

Butrus Comments

NC171856Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Upon leaving B'abda Palace at 1700, Minister Butrus made a statement in which he said: We have sent instructions for the convening of the UN Security Council, and we must wait for the debate. When asked about the date for convening the council, Minister Butrus answered: This will be set by the council chairman.

A newsman said to Minister Butrus: It is understood from what Minister Khaddam has said that Syria objects to the deployment of UN emergency forces on the border.

Minister Butrus answered: Syria has not conveyed to us any stand on the subject of the UN forces, be it positive or negative. Minister Butrus added: Naturally, we would like to see the regular Lebanese forces play their full role. This is our goal and our aspiration.

Sham'un Comments

NC192041Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Commenting tonight on the UN Security Council resolution, former President Camille Sham'un said that the resolution will not and cannot solve the problem. It appears that those who were behind the proposal understood only a small part of the area's problem and ignored the other more important and vital part; namely, the removal of the Palestinian armed presence in every sense of the word and the restoration of sovereignty over a large area in Lebanon--an area which is still deprived of Lebanese sovereignty. Otherwise, it will be as the saying goes: Out of the frying pan and into the fire; that is, the fighting will move from one place to another.

Al-Jumayyil Comments

NC181630Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 18 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Asked his view on the UN Security Council's debate on southern Lebanon, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil expressed the hope that member states of the Security Council and the United Nations would realize the painful stages through which humanitarian Lebanon is passing. He said Lebanon has never hurt anyone and has always sought the friendship of others. Lebanon, he said, is right to reprove the world, particularly the fraternal and friendly states, for abandoning it in time of affliction, leaving it bleeding.

Lebanon effectively contributed to drawing up the Arab League and the UN charters. How can a civilized world forsake a country which contributed toward the human rights declaration? The law of the jungle has been prevailing in the country for 4 years, but no one shows any concern or care. It would be appropriate for the UN Security Council to discuss all questions that would spare problems in the area, particularly the Palestinian question. Ousting Israel from southern Lebanon will not resolve the problem, nor will it solve the Palestinian question, the Lebanese question or any other Arab question. The situation will remain dangerous, particularly in our country, which is enduring tragedies and pain, if the Middle East question and the Palestinian question remain unresolved.

OFFICIALS HOLD MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADORS

Butrus Meets French, U.S. Ambassadors

NC181040Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Mar 78 NC

[Text] At 1000 Foreign Minister Butrus received French Ambassador in Beirut Hubert Argot at his [presumably the ambassador's] request. The ambassador said after the meeting that he discussed with the foreign minister yesterday's UN Security Council debate on the Lebanese complaint, and that the Lebanese and French views are in agreement.

The French ambassador added that consultations will continue between the Lebanese and French sides on the progress of the Security Council's debate on the Lebanese complaint. Asked whether France will participate in the UN emergency forces expected to be deployed in southern Lebanon, the ambassador said: I do not know anything yet. We must first know the result of the Security Council meeting. At any rate, some of the present UN observers in Lebanon are French. We must wait for the UN Security Council discussions.

At 1115 Minister Butrus received U.S. Ambassador Richard Parker.

Parker Comments

NC181410Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Minister Butrus met with U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Mr Richard Parker at 1115 today. After the meeting the following dialog took place between Ambassador Parker and the newsmen: [read by announcer]

Question: What is the purpose of your visit to the foreign minister?

Answer: We talked about the situation in the south and the negotiations are continuing.

Question: Does the United States approve of the arrival of UN forces?

Answer: I believe so. Furthermore, the consultations (?aimed at) taking measures are continuing.

Question: Will the UN forces be stationed before or after Israel withdraws?

Answer: These are matters of detail and I do not know what these measures will be.

Question: Will the UN Security Council pass a resolution before Begin visits Washington?

Answer: I do not know. This is a question of timing.

Question: Have you discussed with Minister Butrus the details of the entry of the UN forces into the south?

Answer: We have discussed this subject from all angels.

Question: Do you expect an early cease-fire in the south?

Answer: God willing.

Al-Huss Meets Saudi Ambassador

NC181307Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister al-Huss met with Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir from 1030 to 1130 today. They reviewed the situation in the south. After the meeting Ambassador ash-Sha'ir said: Prime Minister al-Huss has kindly asked to meet with me. At this meeting we reviewed the present situation in the south. I held a long meeting at noon yesterday with Yasir 'Arafat to discuss the very same points which Prime Minister al-Huss raised today. Furthermore, I met this morning with former Prime Minister Sa-ib Salam for the same purpose. I hope that these efforts will produce the results we are seeking.

Ambassador ash-Sha'ir was then asked: Has Saudi Arabia taken the initiative to bring about an Arab move? He said: As you know, I came back from Saudi Arabia the day before yesterday. I know that the officials in Saudi Arabia are following events in Lebanon as they occur and are doing all they can to halt the fighting immediately and bring about Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territory. No doubt you have taken note of the statement which the royal court has issued in this respect. Answering a question, Ambassador ash-Sha'ir said: I will be delivering a letter to President Sarkis in the very near future.

Sham'un Meets British Ambassador

NC171345Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Former President Camille Sham'un received Britain's Ambassador to Lebanon Peter Wakefield at 1300 today. They discussed all aspects of the security situation and the stand of the British Government following the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon. After the meeting former President Sham'un said: We discussed the situation resulting from the Israeli attack on the south and the possibility of replacing the Israeli forces with international forces. Naturally, we have not yet reached final agreement because this requires the approval of the state. He added that a proposal on stationing international and Lebanese forces in the south to secure communications between the area and the other Lebanese areas was also discussed. President Sham'un further said that he has asked for an appointment with the president tomorrow to brief him on what took place at this meeting.

GUNMEN OCCUPY SYRIAN ORTHODOX BISHOP'S RESIDENCE

NC182051Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 18 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Several gunmen and leftists tonight broke into and occupied the residence of Syrian Orthodox Bishop Athanasios Afram in Al-Musaytibah [quarter of Beirut]. Gunmen and armed vehicles are moving about in Al-Musaytibah, Al-Mazra'ah [quarter] and on Mar Ilyas Street unhindered by the security or deterrent forces. Gunmen are forcibly collecting protection money from passersby.

AL-ASAD DELIVERS SPEECH AT EUPHRATES LAM SITE

JN181313Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1123 GMT 18 Mar 78 JN

[Speech by President Hafiz al-Asad on inauguration of last stage of Euphrates Dam in Ath-Thawrah town on 18 March--live]

[Excerpts] Dear guests, brother citizens: While celebrating the completion of the construction of this huge installation today, the first thing which looms before our eyes is the will of the Arab individual in this country--this individual who willed and determined this big achievement and through this will and determination brough it about, which represents a victory over numberous challenges. Because the challenges were big, our people's rejoicing today is great. Their victory in completing the construction of the Euphrates Dam and its electricity authority is great.

Our people triumphed over the challenge of nature and tamed the rebellious river, transforming it from an angry river wreaking destruction into a river pliant to the will of man, spreading fertility, good and light. Our people triumphed over the forces of colonialism, which tried all means not only to impede this project and prevent it from coming about but also tried to destroy our people's will to build and progress.

Brother citizens, in this part of our homeland, the Syrian-Soviet friendship was practically embodied. [applause] There was a sincere cooperation between the Soviet experts and engineers and the Syrian engineers, technicians and workers. [applause] The result of their cooperation was this huge achievement, which epitomizes cooperation and friendship between the two peoples on the basis of mutual self-respect and common interests. The duty of gratitude makes it incumbent upon us to praise the valuable help the friendly Soviet Union extended in building this big project. We should express our gratitude and appreciation of its important role in providing our citizens who worked on this project with high technical expertise.

With this project, we want to make an important addition to our intrinsic power and to the strength of our Arab nation, and to strengthen Arab steadfastness and Arab potentials, which we constantly say should be mobilized against the arrogant enemy who has occupied our Arab land and usurped the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights.

Today, Israel gives another proof, to be added to the hundreds of proofs, of its defiance of the world and of every logic, right and value which man has established through his long struggle.

No state in the world adheres to the concepts advocated by Israel or functions on their basis. No state in the world occupies a part of the territory of another state on the pretext of securing its boundaries. No state in the world invades another state and occupies a part of its territory on the pretext of establishing a security belt for itself. No state in the world does this except Israel. Israel tells the world that it was on this basis that it invaded southern Lebanon, to establish a security belt.

Israel then tried to link the establishment of this security belt with the fedayeen operation which was carried out inside Palestine. How can mankind concede the right of every state to establish a security belt in the territory of another state through invasion?

How can we understand that this security belt is aimed at preventing fedayeen operations such as the recent one carried out inside Palestine? The recent operation inside Palestine was not carried out from southern Lebanon, which Israel invaded. As a matter of fact, the fedayeen who carried out the operation did not take off from this territory. The matter is crystal clear; it is the tendency of aggression and expansion which is prompting Israel today to invade and occupy parts of southern Lebanon. It was this tendency which prompted Israel in the past to occupy parts of the territories of other Arab states. It was also this tendency which prompted Israel before that to occupy Palestine and to expel the Palestinian people.

But history is full of lessons, especially the history of our region and nation in particular. Look at the Crusader invasion and how it receded, the Tartar invasion and how it was defeated and other invasions to which we were exposed. They all ended in failure and we triumphed in the end. [cheers and applause]

We are completely convinced that Israel is nothing but a distorted and defaced form of those invasions to which our people and nation have been exposed throughout our long history. The fate of this invasion will not be any better than that of the previous ones. [applause and cheers]

Israel is dreaming if it thinks that the invasion and occupation of territories can guarantee its security and prevent the people concerned from liberating their territories and achieving their freedom. There is no doubt time is on our side, first because we are fighting a just cause and second because our multifaceted resources are abundant and are growing rapidly in quantity and quality. They will soon attain their natural and appropriate level.

We are now in a position to think calmly and to decide on the various forms of struggle we can use in fighting aggression and expansion. The methods of armed struggle will remain the most important methods. And if we do not intend to apply these methods at this stage, giving the chance to other possibilities, the continued and renewed operations of occupation and the state of remorse which is intended to dominate the Arab homeland, leading to despair, make the idea of searching for the right form of battle and the appropriate method under the conditions of the existing situation worth consideration and discussion.

Living nations always rise up in times of hardships and adversities. Our nation is in the forefront of those nations. Sufferings made our nation rise at different times in history. It rose as best it could despite all sufferings to restore everything to its rightful place.

We hope that the Arab leaders will rise up to the hopes and aspirations of the Arab masses. They will rise to the level of the big tasks facing them in this historic phase, especially the tasks presented by this Israeli aggression and its chain of action. Secondary matters must give way to the basic issues.

Therefore, we have said and continue to say that everything in Arab life must be geared to the requirements of steadfastness and confrontation of this aggression, which confirms day after day that it is aimed at Arab destiny in every sense of the word.

We say this while affirming that we in Arab Syria will remain the spearhead in the confrontation against every invasion [applause and cheers, someone in the background recites a poem in praise of al-Asad]. We say this while affirming that we in Arab Syria will remain the major force constituting the spearhead confronting every invasion and aggression against the Arab nation.

But we want the Arab struggle instrument to be more effective. Therefore, we stress now, as we have stressed in the past, the necessity of the unity of this instrument on the basis of a clear vision, a common sense of responsibility and a real common objective.

At a time when we are calling for the unity of the Arab instrument and the unity of the Arab stand, I would like to point out that whether or not this is achieved, we in this country will continue to face any challenge valiantly, regardless of its size, strength and savageness. [applause]

Therefore, I would like to make it clear that this aggression against southern Lebanon will not at all compel us to coexist with it. It will only make us more determined to stick to and support the Palestinian resistance [applause]. We cannot and do not want to isolate ourselves from the Palestinian Arab people and the Lebanese Arab people. There is no doubt that the world expects, and must expect, the resistance to the occupation to increase if the new aggression against Lebanese territory and the Palestinian resistance does not stop and the Israeli forces do not withdraw from the Lebanese territory. [applause] I would like to announce here that the land and airspace of Syria are open to any Arab who wants to cross in order to confront the aggressors in southern Lebanon, and to all ammunition that is to be sent to those who resist this aggression [applause and cheers].

Brothers, just as there is no room among us for irresponsible talk, there is also no room among us for defeatism. Since the plans could not drag us to positions of recklessness and adventure, neither can they drag us to positions of fear and submission. We are convinced that it is through sweat and blood, not through begging, that rights are retrieved. It is through sweat and blood, not through begging, that peoples' rights and the dignity of the homeland are safeguarded. [applause]

Gentlemen, on this day, I repeat the homeland's gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the achievement of this great work. I also repeat the homeland's gratitude to our engineers, technicians and workers who through their ideas and hard work made this great achievement possible. They set an example in exerting efforts and making sacrifices. I repeat Syria's gratitude and thanks to all the friendly Soviet experts [applause] whose efforts and expertise are largely to credit for building the dam and its hydroelectric installations.

On this occasion, in the name of our people and our party leadership, I address my greetings to the USSR peoples and leadership [applause]. We hope that very soon this vast area will be covered with plants and crops and new and happy life will spread all over, so abundance and light will stem from this spot to cover all parts of Syria and to Arab brothers. Peace be on you.

TEXT OF NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT AL-ASAD

JN2006444Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

["Text" of interview granted by President Hafiz al-Asad to NEWSWEEK senior editor Arnaud Borchgrave--read by announcer, date and place not given]

[Text] Question: What do you think of the American idea to station a UN peacekeeping force in place of the Israeli forces in southern Lebanon?

Answer: We do not know much about this idea. It is ambiguous. What will the task of such a force be?

Question: To replace the Israelis and to guarantee security by keeping the Fedayeen outside the security belt which Israel is currently occupying.

Answer: The decision is up to Lebanon. We can live with whatever Lebanon agrees upon. We and Lebanon are in close touch.

Question: What if Lebanon agrees to place a UN peacekeeping force in the south?

Answer: In this case, we will also agree. However, you should not have any illusions that this will keep peace in the area. The fedayeen operation carried out north of Tel Aviv did not start from the area which Israel is currently occupying. This is a fact.

Question: Where did the operation start from?

Answer: From north of the line occupied by the Israeli forces. This proves that trying to link the fedayeen raid with the Israeli occupation is unrealistic. The Palestinian operation was a pretext used by Israel to carry out a plan fully arranged and approved for some time beforehand. The question is related to the mentality of expansion.

Question: What other options do you see besides that of the UN peacekeeping force?

Answer: Why not the Lebanese Army or the Arab deterrent force, which is currently keeping peace in Lebanon.

Question: But most of this force consists of Syrian soldiers.

Answer: This is true, and they have kept peace throughout Lebanon with the exception of the southern area which the deterrent forces did not enter. The task of the deterrent forces can be expanded to include this area until the Lebanese Army becomes ready to assume the task.

Question: Israel says, however, that the presence of Syrian forces near its border would be a reason for war.

Answer: What are we seeing now? It is another Israeli occupation. Israel cannot deceive the world by playing games. If the Syrian forces had been assisting in keeping peace in the area, Israel would not have found the pretext it was searching for to carry out its current occupation. However, the longer the Israeli forces stay in southern Lebanon, the larger the dispute will be.

Question: How?

Answer: The Israeli forces will suffer casualties because they are now the target of a new war of attrition. No one can prevent the fedayeen from dealing their blows inside the occupied area of Lebanon and inside Israel itself. What will Israel do? Will it continue its expansion? This is not the way to establish genuine peace.

Question: Are you still prepared for genuine peace?

Answer: Of course, but not the peace Israel has been talking about since as-Sadat's initiative. Israel has fully explained that it does not want to withdraw to the 1967 lines according to the Security Council resolutions and according to what the United States itself is advocating. Furthermore, Israel is not prepared to allow the establishment of a Palestinian homeland. President Carter also advocates this. In other words, the establishment of the Palestinian state is the only means to put an end to the fedayeen raids and to reach a lasting peace.

Question: Why has your army not intervened in southern Lebanon?

Answer: We have not made any decisions, but any action is possible.

Question: What do you intend to do to help the Palestinians?

Answer: We have opened our country and airspace to the passage of volunteers, arms and ammunition, and we will give them every possible aid.

Question: Your foreign minister has said that the Israeli attack is a direct outcome of As-Sadat's initiative. What is the logic behind this statement?

Answer: As-Sadat has helped enhance Israel's strength by isolating Egypt militarily. Consequently, he has given Israel the opportunity it was waiting for. Israel has fully explained that the recent invasion was not in retaliation for the Tel Aviv operation.

Question: What, in your opinion, has happened to As-Sadat's initiative?

Answer: We have assessed the initiative since it started last November as harmful and doomed to failure. However, President as-Sadat is still acting within the context of the initiative.

Question: What is Russia's stand toward dispatching a UN peacekeeping force to Lebanon?

Answer: We have not spoken to them directly on the matter. However, we have learned from UN circles that they approve of the idea.

Question: You have called for a meeting of the foreign and defense ministers of the front of steadfastness and confrontation. Why?

Answer: To rectify the situation in light of Israel's continuous expansion.

MEETING OF MINISTERS OF STEADFASTNESS FRONT CALLED

JN172135Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 17 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--The Syrian Arab Republic today called for convening a meeting of the foreign and defense ministers of the states of the front of steadfastness to be held in Damascus next Sunday, 19 March. The Syrian Arab Republic's proposal comes as a result of the serious situation through which the Arab area is currently passing in the aftermath of the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon.

DR NU'AMAH, DOYEN OF DENTISTS, ASSASSINATED 18 MARCH

JN190525Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] The Ba'th Party Regional Command, the Health Ministry and the Dentists Association in Syria announce the death of martyr Dr Ibrahim Mu'amah, doyen of dentists in Syria, who was martyred on Saturday evening, 18 March, when criminals opened fire at him in front of his clinic in martyrs' quarter in Damascus, thus implementing a plot which only serves the enemies of our people who are struggling for the pride and dignity of the Arabs.

Nu'amah was deputy chairman of the Soviet-Syrian Friendship Society, a post he held for more than 7 years.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI GIVES SPEECH TO LEBANESE PEOPLE, PLO

LD190939Y Tripoli JANA in English 0830 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 18, JANA--Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great First of September Revolution, addressed the following speech [as received] to the Lebanese Arab people and to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said: At this time which our Lebanese and Palestinian Arab masses face the barbaric invasion launched by Zionist forces against Lebanon, the Lebanese Arab people stand steadfast against this attack. The Libyan Arab masses, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said, record this heroic struggle of the Lebanese people in the great history of the Arab nation.

Whatever the Lebanese people lost, but the history record forms a strong revolutionary stance, there is no Arab land suffered for the Arab cause more than Lebanon, who gave everything he owned to this cause by the national Lebanese leadership, which was born as a national movement of the origin people the movement that was born in the national street. [paragraph as received]

It is a great honor for the Lebanese fighter to die beside his brother the Palestinian, defending our Arab nation's honor and future.

Lebanon, who approves these great sacrifices and these heavy weights, certainly links his future with the Palestine people future and expresses the heart of the Arab nation, because history of struggle doesn't account any price.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi added that Lebanon gave his Arab nation more than any other Arab country and more than any other Arab people. Lebanon expresses the consciousness and the pride of the Arab nation. Lebanon today represents the Arab honor and its pride.

Lebanon now must have the congratulations of the Libyan Arab people, for Lebanon stands steady with great patience. The history of the great Arab nation will include in its pages the heroic steadfastness of the Lebanese and Palestinian fighters.

It is our great duty in the Libyan Jamahiriyah and in the Arab homeland that the whole Arab people must stand side by side with their brothers in Lebanon who assert victory for the Arab nation at the end, al-Qadhdhafi concluded.

AL-QADHDHAFI ASKS DECISION ON SUPPORT FOR SYRIA

LD192144Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1820 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Speech by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the Libyan General People's Congress, on the agenda of the people's conferences opening on 20 March, in Tripoli--live]

[Excerpt] The other point on the agenda is support for Syria. What does this mean? Syria is a confrontation state. Egypt has dropped from the confrontation; Syria is standing steadfast in the face of the enemy. The Jamahiriyah, Algeria, the PDRY, Syria and the Palestinian people have formed a steadfastness and confrontation front against the enemy.

Steadfastness means that we do not capitulate or recognize the existence of the Israeli enemy on Arab land, including Palestine (?and others); nor do we capitulate to the enemy regardless of his might or whether the United States of America or heaven are his allies. [words indistinct] We stand steadfast in front of the situation created by Egypt's dropping from the confrontation. Egypt resisted, resisted and resisted; then it dropped. The (?question) is not of a person who has capitulated or become a traitor or such issues: Generally speaking, the question from the historic point of view is that Egypt resisted for some years; it was overcome by the enemy and it capitulated and accepted the conditions of the enemy. The enemy has (?secured) Egypt, and now the enemy has turned toward other fronts, wanting to impose on these fronts capitulation as it did on Egypt.

Syria is standing steadfast; we have been behind Syria in this steadfastness. Confrontation is when the enemy embarks on an attack on the Palestinians, as is happening now, and we confront this attack; we confront the enemy; at least we confront him even if we cannot repel him. [words indistinct] has occupied southern Lebanon. At least we confront him; that is, we put up resistance in front of him until we are capable of repelling him and then (?finishing) him. This is the front of steadfastness and confrontation. When the enemy attacks Syria, we confront him; when he attacks another country, we confront him.

This steadfastness and confrontation require military and material power; to put it frankly, they require money to support [words indistinct] to be used in the confrontation process. Syria deserves support lest it fall as Egypt did. Egypt fought and fought; it got exhausted and then fell. We do not want the same thing to happen in Syria. So that this does not happen to Syria, we must support Syria.

Some people's [words indistinct] to decide to support Syria by 10 million dinars every year or decide to pay $100 million in one payment to Syria. No one can decide on an issue which concerns the people's general budget. This issue is left to the Libyan people. Have the Libyan people decided to support Syria or not? In this regard, in addition to support for Syria, if it is possible, a decision on supporting or not supporting Syria should be taken. Do the Libyan people agree or not, decide on this or not? The second point is how much. Can the people decide and say not more than such an amount a year or whether it is to be paid in one payment or the kind of the support? Some say purchase arms; some say give money; some say purchase [words indistinct]. Some say we support it for 1 year; others say for 2 years; others for 3; others forever; another says we support it until it enters the battle. Some say we specify a period for it, if it is possible. Help the authorities that implement your decision by this--the type, kind and period of support. (?The main thing) is to take a decision on whether to support Syria.

Someone might say--and might voice this at the people's conference--support must now be given to Lebanon and not to Syria, especially since Syria has become an onlooker regarding the driving out of the Palestinians by the Israelis in southern Lebanon. The steadfastness and confrontation front stipulates that any attack on one party is an attack on other parties. Now that the Palestinian side has been attacked, why is it that Syria has not entered the fighting on the side of the Palestinians? Why have Syrian aircraft at least not bombed Israeli forces and towns, just as the Israeli aircraft bombed the towns and [word indistinct] Palestinians? This concerns you at the people's conference. Actually, in the period of 2 or 3 days, Lebanon has become [word indistinct]. This concerns you.

This issue is actually a new one. The present situation has created new things. Why have the Arab deterrent forces not intervened against the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, and what is our stand, bearing in mind that the greater part of these forces are Syrian forces? This is the (?situation). We cannot speak for anybody nor support one side against another. The situation is before you. The situation in Lebanon is clear through the (?radios). I have explained to you Syria's stand.

OFFICIALS REJECT UN FORCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

LD191856Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 19 March, JANA--The Permanent Secretariat of the General People's Congress has released the following communique: While following the march of events in southern Lebanon with the greatest interest, the Permanent Secretariat of the General People's Congress can only be astonished at the proposed alternative to the Palestinian-Lebanese military presence in southern Lebanon. It can only reject and warn against any bargaining over the right of a revolutionary presence on our Arab land in southern Lebanon.

We regard any acceptance of UN forces in the land adjacent to our occupied Palestinian land as acceptance of the Zionist presence and the bestowing of legitimacy on it. Such an acceptance would therefore be treason that neither the people nor history would forgive.

The states of steadfastness and confrontation and the republic of Iraq are all now called upon to adopt the position that the will of the masses imposes a position that rejects any form of concession and submission to the foreign forces that are in collusion against our national right and dignity. Such a position is in our opinion a test of the real meaning of steadfastness and confrontation.

All Arab regimes are, on the other hand, invited to define their positions and to assume their responsibilities before our masses: Either they stand by the masses or side with the Zionist enemy and end up in the treasonous solution As-Sadat got involved in.

FOREIGN SECRETARIAT WANTS UN TO CONDEMN ISRAEL

LD181122Y Tripoli JANA in English 0813 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 18, JANA--The Foreign Secretariat yesterday summoned the ambassadors of the permanent member states of the Security Council in order to draw their attention to the gravity of the current situation in the wake of the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon, which aimed at annihilating the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese people. The Foreign Secretariat called upon those ambassadors to condemn the aggression and to stand up to it.

DEMONSTRATIONS IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS HELD

LD191812Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 19 March, JANA--Mass demonstrations were held in the main streets of Tripoli this afternoon, protesting the despicable attack launched by the racist Zionist enemy against southern Lebanon and the Arab Palestinian refugee camps. Tens of thousands of Arab Libyans, members of Arab colonies in Tripoli, Palestinians and Lebanese residing in the Jamahiriyah took part in the demonstrations. JANA has learned that practical steps have been taken to give facilities for volunteers. This underlines the pan-Arab character of the fedayeen action and the effective cohesiveness with the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. People's committees are being set up at municipal level to collect donations from citizens.

AMBASSADOR HERZOG INTERVIEWED ON SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE

NC190725Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Our correspondent Dan Shilon last night followed up the Security Council debate and the behind-the-scenes diplomatic activity and filed this report:

The Israeli objective has been to postpone the Security Council debate as long as possible, or at least until after Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin has met with U.S. President Jimmy Carter in Washington. According to Israeli circles in the United States, Mr Begin was scheduled to bring with him detailed proposals for a solution to the problem of southern Lebanon. The United States has objected to the postponement of the debate. State Department officials have stressed to Israeli representatives that they will not make it possible for the prime minister to postpone the discussion on the main issues and focus his talks in Washington on the problem of Palestinian terrorism.

Finally, after strenuous behind-the-scenes talks at the United Nations and attempts to overcome reservations on the part of the extremist Arab camp, U.S. Representative at the United Nations Andrew Young submitted a U.S. draft resolution. The draft consists of two main parts: The first calls for immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon; and the second for the immediate dispatch of a UN peace-keeping force to the area.

After the submission of the U.S. draft resolution, we approached Israel's UN Ambassador Hayyim Herzog and asked for his comments: [begin recorded interview]

[Question] Mr Herzog, is the U.S. draft resolution acceptable to Israel?

[Answer] The question is not whether the U.S. draft resolution is acceptable. The question is what happens in the area. In other words, will it be possible as a result of this resolution to implement the decision of the Israeli Government to insure that this area will no longer be a base for terrorist activity, terrorist concentrations and a base for attacks against Israel.

[Question] Is it possible to insure this on the basis of this draft resolution, which will most probably be approved today?

[Answer] It is very difficult to say. I am not a champion of UN forces, because such forces have very restricted authority. What is more, they receive their authority from the Security Council. The Soviet Union, the principal supporter of the PLO, is a member of the Council. Nevertheless, I think this constitutes a certain progress, because the aim is to restore the independence and authority in the area to the Government of Lebanon. In other words, the dispatch of UN forces is considered an interim measure and a means toward the establishment of Lebanese authority in this area.

[Question] Mr Herzog, what role has the United States played behind the scenes?

[Answer] The United States initially was pushing for fast adoption of a resolution based on the assumption, as I understand it, that it is desireable to conclude the Lebanese case at the Security Council before Prime Minister Menahem Begin arrives in the United States today. This is so the prime minister's talks will not deal with Lebanon but with the issues which the President is interested in discussing with Mr Begin.

[Question] We do not see eye-to-eye on this with the United States?

[Answer] No. We have tried all along to postpone, if not the debate--we tried to postpone the debate, but failed--at least the voting until after the arrival of the prime minister so he and the foreign minister can discuss this subject in Washington. Washington, apparently, has other ideas. Therefore, when Begin arrives today, he will arrive after the vote on and adoption of the draft resolution. [end recording]

PRESS REJECTS PROPOSED UN FORCE IN LEBANON

NC190735Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Here now, a review of editorial comment in this morning's Israel press:

MAPAM'S 'AL HAMISHMAR writes that in the 9 months of the government, we have reached the low point in Israeli-American relations, a point that has not been reached before since the state was set up. Of all the issues facing Israel and the U.S. the south Lebanese one is the easiest to solve quickly. 'AL HAMISHMAR is the only paper that writes this morning that putting a United Nations force in southern Lebanon would solve the problem.

HAZOFE, of the National Religious Party, suggests that the American Government can mediate between Israel and Lebanon and Israel and Syria. In this way, it would help bring about a settlement of the crisis in southern Lebanon. But it would be absolutely unacceptable to turn the area over to the United Nations.

MK KOHEN URGES REJECTION OF UN ULTIMATUM

NC191240Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen has asked that the Likuo faction in the Knesset convene to discuss the operation in southern Lebanon. She also demands that the faction reject the Security Council's ultimatum and make IDF's withdrawal from the area conditional on a settlement which will guarantee Lebanese sovereignty and get the Syrian Government and the Palestinians out of the picture. Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen also proposes that the faction condemn the rude U.S. attitude toward the prime minister and that it decide not to consider the United States as a party to the peace negotiations as long as that country is unequivocally standing with Israel's enemies.

CORRESPONDENT NOTES 'OFFICIAL ANXIETY' OVER UN FORCE

TA200748Y Jerusalem POST in English 20 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By David Landau]

[Text] Jerusalem was waiting last night with some scepticism and anxiety to learn what kind of UN force was being prepared for southern Lebanon. Knowledgeable sources warned that unless the force had a broad mandate and adequate fighting equipment it would be ineffective in combating PLO infiltration into the area.

Officials conceded that they were disconcerted by the haste with which the U.S. had pushed through the Security Council resolution setting up the force. Jerusalem had hoped that Washington would wait until Premier Begin had aired the whole issue with President Carter on Tuesday, or at least until Begin and Foreign Minister Dayan arrived in New York and were able to confer by telephone with Secretary of State Vance.

The prime minister, in his departure statement at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday, sought to put the best face possible on America's action. He would still be discussing with President Carter, he said, the practical details of "how to ensure that the (PLO) murderers do not return to these areas."

But reports from New York indicated last night that the U.S. delegation was now pressing the Security Council to decide on the scope and powers of the proposed emergency force--apparently leaving little for discussion between Begin and Carter mid-week.

Some observers here felt Washington was pushing so hard and so fast to wrap up the south Lebanon crisis--and obtain an Israeli withdrawal--before pro-Israel forces on Capitol Hill could gather strength. These forces, the observers said, tended to back Israel in its demand that withdrawal be linked to the establishment of an effective force in the area to prevent terrorist incursions.

The effectiveness of the proposed UN force, according to knowledgeable sources here, will depend first and foremost on the mandate it receives from the UN secretary-general. The officials noted that the UN had not set up a peace-enforcement force, as distinct from a mere peace-policing force, since the Congo crisis in the early sixties. UNEF and UNDOF (in Sinai and the Golan Heights, respectively) were certainly incapable of acting to enforce the peace in south Lebanon, the sources pointed out. Their mandate entitled them to shoot only as the last resort of self-defence; and they were entitled neither to carry out searches nor to make arrests, as an anti-terrorist unit must have the right to do. Most important--they lacked armoured vehicles.

In this context it is worth noting that the Begin government differs from its predecessor not only in its equivocal approach to a UN force in Lebanon (the Rabin-Peres government was firmly against it), but also to the prospect of a Syrian advance beyond the "red line" established on or about the Litani River. The Rabin-Peres government held that even a PLO presence below the "red line" was preferable to a Syrian presence. But today there are some officials who argue otherwise. They say that the Syrians could keep the PLO at bay, while their military commitment deeper into Lebanon would weaken them vis-a-vis Israel.

One idea that has been mooted is for Syrian troops to advance farther south, ostensibly under Lebanese command. The area between their front lines and the Israeli border would then be patrolled by a UN force as a kind of buffer zone.

Other Israeli officials are stressing the hope, echoed in the Security Council resolution, that the Lebanese Army itself will eventually take control of the area. Israel sees this as the only acceptable long-term solution. Officials here feel that the Lebanese Army could be effectively bolstered by troops of the local Christian militia, which has been fighting PLO-backed forces, with Israeli help, for the past two years.

But knowledgeable sources say that at present, and for the foreseeable future, neither the Lebanese Army nor the Christian militia represents a credible force that could deter PLO infiltration.

ARENS REJECTS PROPOSAL ON UN TROOPS TO S. LEBANON

TA192323Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2145 GMT 19 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Moshe Arens, believes that the proposal to station UN forces in southern Lebanon does not constitute any solution whatsoever and that we should rely mainly on the local population that will organize and establish forces against the terrorists.

Professor Arens said this to our correspondent 'Amos Nevo. [begin recording]

The key to success for our operation lies in having the local population succeed in organizing itself for self-defense and for keeping the terrorists out. I would say that if the local population--the Christians, the Shi'ite Moslems and the Druze--organize and, in principle, have the power and the ability--I think they can have this--to prevent the return of the terrorists to the region, this may be viewed as a very important achievement for Israel and for the population of southern Lebanon and for all of Lebanon in general.

SIILASVUO PLANS DEPLOYMENT OF UN TROOPS IN LEBANON

TA2007547 Jerusalem POST in English 20 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Anan Safadi]

[Text] Gen. Ensio Siilasvuo, head of the UN forces in the Middle East, last night summoned his top military aides to his Jerusalem headquarters to map out the deployment of UN peace-keeping troops in southern Lebanon. The meeting was still going on early this morning. Gen. Siilasvuo and his aides were understood to be considering the implementation of UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim's proposal to deploy 4,000 UN troops in south Lebanon. The communication between Siilasvuo and Waldheim was being kept secret last night since the latter's proposal still has to be approved by the Security Council, which yesterday resolved to dispatch international troops to south Lebanon. The council is expected to reconvene tomorrow morning.

Waldheim had suggested sending five battalions of 600 troops and officers each in addition to logistics units comprising some 1,000 personnel. The force will be known as UNIFIL--United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. It is planned to take over southern Lebanon temporarily, pending the restoration of Lebanon state authority there. The force will also replace ILMAC, the Israel-Lebanon Mixed Armistice Commission set up in 1949. The latter had until recently 14 observers manning posts along the Israel-Lebanon frontiers.

UNIFIL was expected to be placed under the direct command of Gen. Siilasvuo, who is now the chief coordinator of UN forces in the region. These include UNEF in Sinai, UNDOF in the Golan and the UNTSO liaison officers.

Observers last night said that the new force was unlikely to move into position until the parties involved in the southern Lebanese crisis determined its area of operation.

Maintaining an agreed area of operations is the second of two major functions entrusted to the new force. The first was described by Secretary Waldheim as "confirming Israel's withdrawal to the international border."

Another task set for the force is to prevent the entry of armed men into the area of UN operation. The force is designed to carry out policing patrols while leaving administrative affairs to the Beirut government.

Reliable sources said that the new force is expected to take over control of the region stretching from the Israel-Lebanese frontiers up to the Litani River.

BEGIN TO PRESENT PLAN FOR SETTLEMENT OF S. LEBANON ISSUE

NC1807307 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 18 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Israel's UN Ambassador Hayyim Herzog said last night that Prime Minister Menahem Begin will present to President Carter a detailed plan for settling the problem of south Lebanon.

Ambassador Herzog gave no details about the prime minister's plan. Mr Begin will arrive in Washington tomorrow. Mr Herzog was speaking to correspondents after the UN Security Council session in which the situation in southern Lebanon was discussed. The Security Council debate will be resumed this afternoon.

BEGIN TALKS TO NEWSMAN ON DEPARTURE FOR U.S.

NC1913OOY Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Leaving for the United States together with Foreign Minister Dayan, Prime Minister Menahem Begin said that he expected the events of the past week to be an important topic of discussion with the American leaders. He told reporters at the airport that the terrorists could not be allowed to return to south Lebanon.

[Begin--recorded] To us, the main question is how to make sure that those aggressors who invaded Lebanon and established bases against Israel will not be permitted or enabled to come back to those places from which they were driven out. We haven't forgotten and we shall not forget Israel's striving for peace, and we shall make an effort during our stay in New York and Washington to renew the support which was given to Israel's peace plan in December and we hope to renew this support both in the Executive Branch, in the Legislative Branch, and in public opinion of the American people.

[Correspondent] Did Mr Begin feel that the United States had acted rationally in calling for an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon?

[Begin--recorded] I am not giving any definitions about the action of the United States Government. It turned to the Security Council; there is a debate. But under any circumstances we will do our best to clarify how the return [as heard] of those aggressors against Israel and its citizens is going to be assured.

[Correspondent] Would Israel honor a Security Council resolution calling for an immediate Israel withdrawal?

[Begin--recorded] I understand that there are two parts in that resolution--for immediate withdrawal and the immediate establishment of the United Nations force--and therefore, we shall consider this problem when we meet the President.

[Correspondent] Did Israel feel a United Nations force could control the situation in south Lebanon?

[Begin--recorded] This is the problem, and we are going to clarify it during our conversations with the President and his advisers. This is the issue.

[Correspondent] Did Israel have alternative proposals to United Nations force in south Lebanon?

[Begin--recorded] Yes, we will have proposals to make.

BEGIN: ISRAEL MUST DEFEND CITIZENS AGAINST KATYUSHAS

NC190813Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] The prime minister left for the United States this morning accompanied by the foreign minister and the government legal adviser.

He said at the airport that Israel has been attacked with katyushas from an area beyond the security strip in southern Lebanon--that is to say, from a long distance--and it must defend the citizens of the state. This was Mr Begin's reply to the question of whether there is a tendency to extend the security belt.

BEGIN TALKS TO UK PREMIER DURING LONDON STOPOVER

TA191828Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Begin landed in London in the afternoon on his way to the United States. During his 2-hour stopover he talked with Prime Minister Callaghan on the telephone. Government officials in London said that it was mainly a courtesy call.

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who flew with the prime minister, did not leave the plane during the stopover, but slept in his seat.

BEGIN TO MEET UK PREMIER IN WASHINGTON

TA192258Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Begin will confer with British Prime Minister Callaghan in Washington on Thursday. Callaghan will arrive in Washington for discussions about the world economic situation. The meeting between Begin and Callaghan was agreed on in a telephone call made today during the prime minister's stopover at Heathrow Airport in London on his way to the United States.

Our correspondent Mikha Limor reports that during the stopover Mr Begin did not confer with British officials.

Israeli correspondents were told by the prime minister that he will be able to assess anticipated developments only after the consultations in Washington.

NO NEW DECISIONS AT 19 MAR CABINET MEETING

TA191700Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 19 Mar 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Excerpt] In its weekly session the cabinet today heard reports from the defense minister and the chief of staff about the recent developments in southern Lebanon. The cabinet held a discussion about these developments sitting in its capacity as the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs. It was stated at the cabinet meeting that acting prime minister, Prof Yiga'el Yadin, will update the prime minister during his stay in the United States about the political and military developments. Our correspondent Moshe Hakohen reports on the cabinet meeting: [begin recording]

As expected, in the absence of the prime minister and the defense [as heard] minister, the cabinet has not taken any new decisions or guidelines in the military or political spheres pertaining to southern Lebanon. As for the military sphere, the government settled for noting the reports made by the defense minister and the chief of staff about developments in the area. The government held a discussion on this matter.

After the cabinet meeting the government secretary firmly denied that a possibility had been raised regarding the imposition of an Israeli military government in southern Lebanon. At the end of the military portion of the meeting, the defense minister and the chief of staff left for the north by helicopter.

SOME CABINET MEMBERS CRITICAL OF IDF OPERATION

TA192146Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Mar 78 TA

[Excerpts] At its weekly meeting the cabinet heard a report from the defense minister and the chief of staff about the situation in southern Lebanon. In this part of the meeting the cabinet sat in its capacity as the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs. Earlier, early in the morning, the ministers had gathered at Ben-Gurion Airport to bid the prime minister farewell.

Cabinet ministers leveled criticism at the IDF's continuing activity in southern Lebanon. They say that after the prime minister announced that the IDF mission had been completed he should have announced that Israel was beginning to thin out its forces and that the IDF would remain in southern Lebanon until a solution is found that will prevent the terrorists from returning.

The major objective of the U.S. trip has almost been forgotten--to find a way to continue the political momentum in the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations, to find a formula for the joint declaration of principles, the question of the Israeli interpretation of UN Resolution 242, the settlements and the solution of the Palestinian problem.

PERES CRITICIZES CABINET STAND ON LEBANON SETTLEMENT

TA191801Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The chairman of the Labor Party, MK Shim'on Peres, said he was astonished by the fact that government circles regard favorably the proposal to station a UN force in southern Lebanon. He also said that the prime minister's proposal to reach a settlement with all elements in Lebanon is a first recognition on our part of the inter-Arab force and the Syrian force and possibly also an indirect recognition of the terrorist forces.

In Peres' opinion the solution to the problem lies in strengthening the Christian and Shi'ite military force in Lebanon, a force that will be aided by the cover provided by IDF artillery.

Peres said this in a discussion of the IDF operation in southern Lebanon at the Labor Party bureau today.

SHELLI MOTION SEEKS IDF WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

TA191454Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The Shelli Knesset faction has submitted an urgent motion to the Knesset agenda asking for a discussion on the urgent need for the IDF to withdraw from southern Lebanon. By way of explaining the need for the motion Shelli says that the IDF operation in southern Lebanon may lead to a general war with Syria, harm our relations with the United States and lead to an additional refugee problem involving those fleeing from the region.

SHEMTOV WARNS AGAINST REMAINING IN LEBANON TOO LONG

TA191424Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 Mar 78 p 2 TA

[Text] The political secretary of MAPAM, Victor Shemtov, yesterday warned that IDF consolidation for a prolonged stay in Lebanese territory necessarily carries with it political and military dangers.

Shemtov said that declarations by various figures in the Israeli administration over the last 48 hours were worrisome, since they give the impression that the cabinet is likely to be dragged into a situation which forces hostile to Israel are interested in bringing about: An end to the peace process, military escalation, an increase in the involvement of the superpowers and the necessity for an imposed solution.

Shemtov emphasized that there was no military solution to the terror and this could be solved only by finding a solution to the entire Palestinian problem.

Shemtov added that Begin's visit to Washington this week is of decisive importance with respect to the future direction of developments in the area. The results of the visit, according to him, would to a great extent determine whether the political process would continue until peace is achieved or whether matters would degenerate into a military escalation leading to an imposed solution.

Shemtov called on Begin to hold a new election if he did not want to risk making concessions in the West Bank.

DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER DISCUSSES IDF OPERATIONS

TA172142Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Mar 78 TA

[Interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Zippori by Yo'el Esteron on the "Interview of the Week" program--time and place not given]

[Text] [Question] I assume that after the terrorist attack on the coastal road, plans for various operations came under consideration. How was it decided to opt for the large-scale operation that has been undertaken?

[Answer] A decision for an operation on such a scale is not a decision that must be taken on any particular day. The incidents with the terrorists did not begin last Saturday. The Lebanese border is the only border from which the terrorists are acting freely. On reviewing the borders of our state--be it our border in the west or in the south with Egypt, be it the eastern or the northern border with Syria--on all those borders, the states bordering Israel are in control of their frontiers and they prevent terrorist activities from their countries against the State of Israel. The only border which is a no man's land is the border with Lebanon. This is a border that has constituted a source of harrassment for Israel for years on end and from which, constantly, terrorists were setting out to strike against citizens of the state of Israel, for example, the bus to Avivim, or various other murder actions. This is a border from which with full freedom and at will terrorist fire is intermittently leveled, with or without reason, at settlements in Israel--the Katyushas at Nahariyya, the Katyushas at Qiryat Shemona, and so forth. In that area of southern Lebanon there were parts which were quasiautonomous areas of Palestinian terrorists, in Fatahland or in other regions. This is a border that was practically under no control, but subject to the anarchy of terrorists doing whatever they wanted.

[Question] This was also true 1 or 2 weeks ago.

[Answer] Right, this was also true 1 or 2 weeks ago, and also a number of months ago. You may recall that a few months ago there were also incidents of battles with the terrorists, in the wake of which a cease-fire was achieved. In that cease-fire we demanded that the terrorists withdraw north of the Litani River. After that a certain degree of calm prevailed on that border.

In times of calm--although it is clear to us who the people sitting there are, and that they constitute a potential danger to the citizens of the State of Israel--since we are a law-abiding state, even if we know of places where enemies of the state sit and scheme how to harm it, the state cannot set out and attack them because of their scheming. However, when these schemes cease being theory and become actions, it is the government's right and duty to react in order to prevent these actions. After the last incident the government decided that this subject has to be treated in a more basic manner and decided to remove this harassment and this danger from our border.

[Question] The operation started 3 full days after the terrorist attack, and the respite enabled the terrorists or some of the terrorists to escape from the region.

[Answer] Right, the operation began 3 days after the base murder last Saturday, last Saturday night, and this was for a number of reasons. To execute an operation on a larger scale requires preparations. It would be illogical and unreasonable for us to set out on such an operation in a hurried manner. As you also know, Israel's defense army is not an army sitting in full force along all the borders. We maintain a regular army, a conscripted army, regular or reservist forces, in the minimum complements necessary for defense. To set out for an offensive on a larger scale necessitates a number of actions. This is one side of the reasoning. True, the state of alert in Israel's defense forces makes it possible to launch perhaps larger offensives than this operation; this is beyond any doubt. In this case, the weather too was such that it was preferable to postpone it until more protitious weather conditions prevailed, and this was done. There is no reason why we shouldn't choose the date and the best timing to execute an operation in a more orderly manner, under better weather conditions, which indeed was done. I think that even though it is possible that some of the terrorists have fled, when we were planning this, we could foresee two possibilities: one, that the terrorists who initiated this slaughter, if they were real fighters rather than murderers, it was reasonable to assume were likely to concentrate in greater numbers in order to defend their positions. It was also reasonable to assume that they would likely try to evade a direct confrontation.

[Question] Had they remained in their positions the IDF would have been deprived of the element of surprise, 72 hours after, right?

[Answer] The element of surprise did not exist in the beginning either. The same night as the incident the terrorist radio announced that we were attacking them, namely, from the moment they launched the act they went on alert against the possibility of an Israeli reaction. They could not tell the scope of the reaction, nor in which region it would take place. Nevertheless, there was surprise. The surprise may have been regarding the scope of the operation. This is a large-scale operation, extending along a border of about 100 km in length.

[Question] Mr Zippori, was it been predetermined for how long the IDF would occupy the security belt in southern Lebanon?

[Answer] No period of time had been predetermined. Several basic conditions have been determined. We intend that when we leave the area--and we will leave the area--there will be no terrorists south of the Litani. We will take care of them as long as we are there and will make sure, in negotiations either with the Lebanese Government or with the Syrians, who are more or less in control of Lebanon, that this area is kept free of terrorists.

[Question] Will it be possible to rely on such an agreement? There have been agreements in the past, as you have mentioned.

[Answer] You can rely to a certain extent on every agreement. We intend to leave a clean area and to make Israel's intentions totally clear. The one who wants to gamble and try to inject the terrorists again will have to take into consideration that we may return to this area. Those who try to come near our border again in order to hurt us may have to pay a heavier price.

[Question] In other words, there will be a security belt devoid of terrorists either while we are in control of the area or later, in the wake of an agreement.

[Answer] We want those legitimate or semilegitimate forces, namely, those that were invited by the Lebanese Government onto Lebanese territory, such as the Syrians or the inter-Arab force, to make sure that no terrorists are south of the Litani.

[Question] Mr Zippori, do the casualties among the terrorists, as published so far, constitute a decisive blow to the overall strength of the terrorist organizations?

[Answer] I would not define this as a decisive blow. However, this is a serious blow. As a matter of fact, it has been proven to the terrorists and their self-image that they do not constitute a factor that can confront and fight even a minor force of the IDF. This is certainly a minor force. All the numbers [of the size of the IDF force] with which they are trying to console themselves are exaggerated several times over. A relatively small IDF force took part in the operation and it was proved that in several of the places the fight put up by the terrorists was not a fight, even though the terrain gave them numerous possibilities. In those places where they did put up a fight, they were severely hit and had a considerable number of casualties. However, this was not a decisive blow to the terrorists' strength.

[Question] There was reported cooperation between the IDF and the Christians in the course of the battles. What can you say about this?

[Answer] In principle it was a pure IDF operation without the participation of any other force. There was cooperation on a human level between the Christian residents and our forces that entered southern Lebanon. However, this war was carried out by IDF soldiers alone, there has been a certain aid, either with drinks or with good will or with help to a vehicle that got stuck and the like. The fighting itself is purely by the IDF.

[Question] Is it your assessment that the IDF has in fact rescued the Christians from a desperate situation in southern Lebanon?

[Answer] The Christians were not in a desperate situation. Those Christian enclaves in southern Lebanon enjoyed our utmost help all the time. It is possible to say that the continued existence of these enclaves has been guaranteed by the State of Israel. However, there has been a basic revolution today in what has happened in southern Lebanon. All enclaves have been united. There is a connection between them and numerous possibilities have opened up before the Christians to insist on their rights and their ability to defend themselves.

[Question] After the IDF leaves the security belt--will the terrorists not try to attack the Christians with renewed strength?

[Answer] The aid and the commitment of extending aid to the Christians will remain after we leave. Among the conditions we will present to those elements that will have to take control of the area will be that the welfare of the Christians will be guaranteed.

[Question] In active intervention in the field itself?

[Answer] If the need for this arises. The Israeli Government has declared several times that we will not desert the Christians in southern Lebanon.

[Question] The prime minister attacked the Soviet Union for its support of the terrorist organizations. Can you dwell on the scope of Soviet support of the terrorists?

[Answer] It is possible to say that the terrorists enjoy the full support of the Soviet Union. This is expressed almost in all spheres--both in equipping and training them and giving them political support and backing. It does not matter what atrocity these terrorists commit--Soviet support is guaranteed.

[Question] Do the terrorists also coordinate their attacks with the Soviet Union? For example, the recent attack along the Haifa-Tel Aviv road?

[Answer] I do not assume that there is a coordination between a powerful, huge country with any single action; however, support is given after the fact.

[Question] And the Syrians--according to what we know, did they know about the planned terrorist attack?

[Answer] I do not know. However, there is no doubt, we could clearly see that, the general joy seizing all the Arab countries the minute this atrocious murder was publicized in the world.

[Question] Egypt condemned the murder....

[Answer] Egypt, or rather the Egyptian president, condemned the murder 3 days later. The Egyptian press, however, expresses joy about this up to this very moment.

[Question] Was the attack an unavoidable disaster, Mr Zippori?

[Answer] In a war with terrorists who are not stopped by any moral ethics, some kind of disaster may happen from time to time. If the State of Israel allowed itself the freedom--that it cannot have--of attacking the terrorists wherever they are hourly or daily without cause, then it might be possible to diminish the chances, but not to prevent them entirely. In this case it does not seem to me that the action was impossible to prevent. [as heard] It is possible to penetrate. Therefore, I think in principle that those who say otherwise give the public illusions--it will be an illusion to say that it is possible to do away entirely with terrorist acts. It is all the more impossible when these terrorist acts are supported by the majority of the Arab countries and also receive the support of great powers such as the one we mentioned earlier. So, from time to time, even when we are on maximum alert, some kind of disaster may happen.

[Question] Is it true that there had been intelligence giving early warning of the terrorist act?

[Answer] In principle there is no day without warnings. We must set out from a basic assumption: all the terrorist organizations daily plan and plot to harm and hurt the State of Israel and its inhabitants. Sometimes there is a more timely report and sometimes there is less timely information. What I say, however, is that even if we did not have a single report, we should take the following as a given: whenever the terrorists can charge in they will do so. Israel's alert in this continuous struggle is in fact something which goes on daily. Sometimes, in the light of the more concrete reports, the alert is stepped up. We had prior information about intentions to carry out a maritime terrorist act and the IDF and security forces took precautions in order to prevent this. On that Saturday, 11 March, there was also an alert. [words indistinct] there was an infiltration. A check is being carried out at the moment to determine if all the required actions were properly carried out.

[Question] There are no results of this check yet, are there?

[Answer] There is no indication yet that something was not done properly. The investigation has not ended. When it is finished we will see if everything was properly done. If not, other measures aimed at strengthening this matter will be examined. We will see whether mistakes were made. In this case these mistakes will be corrected and handled. In principle, if we had to act according to warnings, it is possible that [words indistinct] that all the people of Israel should be mobilized all the time, that they will be (?always under great tension) and always up in the air. In general, the measures taken should be reasonable enough to be able to take care of the problem. In this case, what happened happened. The outfit committing this act was a most base outfit, a group of people who even after taking control of a vehicle did not find it right to let the 5-year-old kids and the women out. That was a special group. This will oblige us to reach conclusion for future application, how to treat them in the future. One of the conclusions is reflected in what is happening in southern Lebanon today.

[Question] To conclude, I would like to return to southern Lebanon. Is it reasonable to assume that this time next week the IDF force will still be in southern Lebanon?

[Answer] I said that this depends on the contacts we will have with those elements that can replace the IDF in the area and on the solution to be found, namely, if the terrorists are north of the Litani, then our forces will surely be back behind our border, and if order is not reinstated it is reasonable that our forces will be in those places or in any other place where terrorists are found.

[Question] Following our withdrawal from southern Lebanon--will we agree that the inter-Arab force, which is mainly a Syrian force, be among the forces in that strip?

[Answer] In principle, no. All our early negotiations. [as heard] I think that the Lebanese Government will have to organize and to send into the south units of the Lebanese Army that will control the area. Control it, that is to say, will prevent terrorists or armed Palestinians from being south of the Litani.

[Question] Thank you very much Mr Deputy Defense Minister.

WEIZMAN INTERVIEWED ON LEBANON, OTHER ISSUES

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[Text] At least 250 of the Fatah combatants in southern Lebanon were killed in the fighting. This was stated by the defense minister this evening. Almost all the IDF's tasks were achieved. However, in the wake of the katyusha rockets, the continuation of the contact and continuation of the shooting are necessary. Our military correspondent 'Amiram Nir interviews Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman.

[Question] Mr Weizman, we have heard over the last few hours reports from Lebanon about an additional IDF action north of Tyre; Are these reports true?

[Answer] There is no truth to them. An oversensitivity may be developing now and it may also be convenient for them to depict our activity as being much more than it really is: paratroopers, commandos. It is true that yesterday there was an ambush of a fine unit of ours north of Tyre. As they announced, we killed one of the commanders, one of the leaders under George Habash. We did not intend to hurt citizens. It is possible that some citizens were hurt in the course of the ambush, certainly not the numbers announced by them. As for the paratroopers and so on--this is unfounded.

[Question] If we cast a more general look on everything that has taken place--has the IDF operation that began 3 days ago ended? Is the situation now becoming stable, as you define it?

[Answer] This is not exactly a question of stabilization but your question is a good one. First, I would like to emphasize that this is a large-scale operation. This is the largest operation taking place in between Israel's wars to date. I am taking into consideration the Independence War, [the 1956] Qadesh war, the 6-day war and the Yom Kippur war. The war of attrition was unique of course. This is a large-scale fighting spread, as everyone knows, between the Mediterranean and Mt Hermon, to Har Dov, with many forces, within a fortified area, with an enemy which fights in many places--in some places it does not fight--in fortified positions. Therefore, some of our units ran into greater resistance in several places whereas in others there was almost no resistance. Resistance along the shore, for example, was almost nonexistent. There were much harder battles around Marun ar-Ra's and Bint Jubayl. For this reason, among others, we suffered 14 soldiers killed. On the whole then it was large-scale fighting.

I was in the field a long time today and at the moment our rather authorized assessment--based also on talks with commanders--is that we have inflicted at least 250 casualties among the Fatah combatants in the area. I also assess--this is not the objective of the war--but I assess that they have many more casualties from shellings and bombardments. In general this is a large-scale fighting.

[Question] Has the fighting ended Mr Weizman?

[Answer] No. Look, we have achieved the tasks that we have wanted to achieve, more or less. We are now sitting in places 10 or 5 or 7 km from the border. If they stopped firing now we would undoubtedly also stop. We can go much further but we do not want to.

[Question] Will this be needed, in your opinion, especially in the wake of the artillery and katyusha firings?

[Answer] I do not know whether it will be needed in the wake of the firing. However, some contact will be needed, whether this contact consists of shelling, or bombing or more than that even. The contact continues, the firing goes on. To our regret their firing on settlements also continues and we will make every effort to stop this.

[Question] Can such an effort lead to something like a second stage of the operation, namely, going deeper into Lebanon and operating against other targets?

[Answer] No. By the way, there have been reports to the effect that we crossed north of the Litani. This is untrue. We are barely near the Litani in the vicinity of Metulla, which is the nearest place. Generally, though, I do not think that we should (?get out). However, you know that in war you cannot tell what the other party will do. You can only assess this.

[Question] Mr Weizman how do you explain the fact that the Syrians have not intervened so far? When we set out on this operation--did we take into consideration the possibility that the Syrians may intervene?

[Answer] Certainly. I have said this in the past already--this is not much history though, we have been fighting for only 3 days. We have made efforts so that the Syrians will understand, and I do hope that they will understand, that the battle is restricted, that it is confined to south of the Litani and that it is aimed against the Fatah. It is aimed at realizing successes against this force in the long battles for 10 years. I would like to remark on one thing that is important to understand, in my opinion. We are fighting them in southern Lebanon. However, our fight with Fatah is not only in the south. Those murderers who left on Saturday, left from south of Beirut. Therefore, it is not enough to reach a solution only regarding southern Lebanon. The solution should be a comprehensive solution of the entire problem of Fatah coming to attack us from Lebanon.

[Question] Since you have mentioned the question of solution or settlement--what kind of a settlement is Israel aiming at in southern Lebanon or in all of Lebanon before it removes its army?

[Answer] We greatly desire reaching a solution such as we have today with Jordan. Let us remember though what happened in Jordan 8, 10 years ago, immediately after the 6-day war when Jordan was the headquarters of Fatah and Beirut was a happy and joyful city in the eastern Mediterranean prior to its destruction by Fatah. We, through pressure on the Jordanian Government, brought about Jordan's participation in the liquidation of Fatah. Not only by Jordan, because we also liquidated Fatah. [as heard] Today we have a certain unwritten settlement with the Jordanian Government. The problem is that there is no government that can do the same in Lebanon. There are 40,000 Syrians there indeed--and nobody questions their entry into Lebanon while everyone is excited about our entry--Syrians who came to establish order between the Christians and the Moslems. Well then, let them control the Moslems, Fatah, so that order exists between us and them. If not, we have taken part of southern Lebanon for a limited period in order to establish order there at least. I repeat what was said by the entire Israeli Government: We do not intend to sit there. We do intend to have a settlement there.

[Question] In other words, you view the Syrians as a major partner to the settlement in Lebanon?

[Answer] Surely, they are sitting inside Lebanon. Their force there amounts to 40,000 people. If the Arab world indeed wants us not to sit in Lebanon--and I repeat, we do not want to sit in Lebanon--then the Arab world and other elements should bring this matter under control, just as Jordan did at the time. I should also remark that there is no [terrorist] activity from Syria and Egypt either.

[Question] Have contacts with the Syrians already begun in this direction?

[Answer] No.

[Question] If Israel takes its army out of southern Lebanon, who or what would you like to have it replaced by?

[Answer] I would want--and it is a rather imaginary desire at the moment although a development may take place--that the Lebanese themselves return to the situation existing in the past when Lebanon was the most friendly, most agreeable and most quiet country.

[Question] In other words, you are not talking of a UN force or a U.S. force or any other variation for a settlement?

[Answer] There is a proposal to this effect. We are considering it. I would prefer to live in the Middle East in contact with the Arab world, in a contact of peace.

[Question] Without a bar [to direct contacts].

[Answer] Certainly without a bar. We are having close contacts with Egypt--they have lessened a little now but I hope they will be reestablished. One of the questions is how the operation in Lebanon will affect the contacts with As-Sadat. This is a very curious question. Why should our presence, fighting against Fatah--the Fatah that killed 15 Egyptian soldiers in Cyprus a few weeks ago--why should our presence in Lebanon negatively affect the negotiations we have with As-Sadat, while the killing of 30 Jews on the Haifa-Tel Aviv highway cannot constitute a negative element for us with regard to the negotiations? He must understand, the entire world and the Arab and Egyptian world must understand, that if they want us to sit down and conduct negotiations aimed at reaching peace--and we want this--total quiet must prevail on all fronts, including Lebanon.

[Question] Mr Weizman, we are on the eve of a debate in the UN Security Council about the Lebanese affair. To what extent will Israel agree to accept a UN Security Council dictate to get out of southern Lebanon?

[Answer] This is not an easy question and I will not answer it now. It requires a government discussion. I cannot give you my opinion on this matter. There should be a government opinion on this issue. I would only like to mention that the prime minister is leaving for the United States on Sunday. Among other things he will also deal with this complex subject of southern Lebanon, of our entry into southern Lebanon and the UN Security Council.

[Question] Practically speaking, what will Israel's position be in the debate taking place in the UN Security Council?

[Answer] This will be decided by the government after we see what demands are made of us in the UN Security Council.

[Question] Thank you very much.

CHIEF OF STAFF INTERVIEWED ON SOUTH LEBANON OPERATION

NC181240Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1005 GMT 18 Mar 78 NC

[Zevi Shapira interview with Chief of Staff Lt Gen Mordekhay Gur--date and place not given--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Chief of Staff Lt Gen Mordekhay Gur, have the objectives of the IDF operation in south Lebanon been achieved?

[Answer] The principal objectives from the standpoint of territory and hitting the infrastructure of the terrorists have been achieved. The territory we set for the units, the positions and bases of the terrorists--all these have been captured and hit. What has not yet been completed is the total mopping up of the terrorists throughout southern Lebanon. This must be a function both of the continuation of the fighting and of a political settlement.

[Question] Is the operation continuing beyond plans?

[Answer] No, definitely not. We have set a preliminary timetable for the occupation and control of the area, and this operation was completed according to the timetable. From a certain point, this of course depends also on the behavior of the terrorists, their resistance capability and the firing of katyushas and shells at settlements. This thing can continue, and we have taken into account that it will continue.

[Question] Are there still many terrorists in the area under the control of the IDF?

[Answer] In the area under our control there are not many. For example, today I traveled all along the sector, As I told the prime minister, I traveled between the enclaves, and the area is quiet. Clashes with the terrorists are still taking place mainly on the frontline and to the north and west of this frontline.

[Question] How would you evaluate the main difficultues in this operation? How would you outline them?

[Answer] First, there was the difficulty of combat. We knew there were many terrorists in southern Lebanon. There are positions which were built by the terrorists. These are military positions to all intents and purposes. We knew that fighting against such positions and fighting in developed areas and large villages would be difficult, and it was, indeed, difficult in a large number of places.

The second difficulty was the weather. Because of the weather and the rain which fell before the operation, it was difficult to move freely in the area. Some of our vehicles also ran over mines.

A third difficulty, of course, stemmed from instructions given to the IFD--and the general staff briefs the units--to try to avoid to the extent possible hitting civilians. This also demands that we act slower and more discriminately. These, in my estimation, were the three main difficulties during the occupation and control operation.

The moment the forces stop, the difficulty lies in the fact that the force cannot operate freely when it is fired upon, because we cannot go beyond the limits set by the government decision.

Then it is necessary to find tactics which will enable us to continue to press the terrorists and at the same time stay within the limits we set for ourselves. This has been the main difficulty in the past 2 days.

[Question] From the standpoint of the overall scope of the operation, would you say it was an unprecedented operation by the IDF and without parallel?

[Answer] As a matter of fact, this is the largest operation that has taken place on the Lebanese border.

[Question] News agencies have reported that the IDF also operated north of Tyre. They also reported that women and children were hit in ambushes set up for vehicles. What do you have to say about this?

[Answer] First, it is true that we did operate north of the Litani River. It should be remembered that Tyre--a name that is impressive in itself--lies north of the Litani. Tyre is surrounded by five refugee camps, which are the center of terrorist activity for the whole of Lebanon. We have operated against these camps in the past. The artillery batteries of the terrorists--they had about 27 artillery pieces of various types there--were mostly located north of the Litani. This also means north of Tyre. I would say that the majority of the artillery pieces were on the line between An-Nabatiyah and Az-Zahrani on the sea. Az-Zahrani is a place where they receive oil. We did operate against them both by artillery, from the air and from the sea. We operated against their naval bases where the naval units received training. It was one of these units which operated last Saturday. We operated against them and bombed them from the air. Therefore, we operated not only in the southern Lebanon sector but also against the bases from which they set out and from which they can set out for operations by sea. We made every effort not to hit civilians. It is possible that civilians were also hit. I am sorry for every civilian we hit. I wish that the Lebanese people and government and perhaps also the Syrians who are present in Lebanon as an inter-Arab deterrent force, would learn the lesson that Jordan, Syria and Egypt learned several years ago--simply to prevent the terrorists from operating. Syria is in control of the terrorists, and no operations are carried out from its territory. Jordan, during Black September, hit the terrorists very hard, and no operations are being carried out from its territory. After the Qadesh campaign Egypt prevented fedayeen operations from its territory--mainly from the Gaza Strip and Sinai. We see no reason why the Arab world with its deterrent forces cannot get organized to prevent terrorist activity from Lebanese territory.

[Question] Does such an operation constitute a sort of political pressure on the Arab world or on Syria to pressure the terrorists to stop the fighting?

[Answer] In my opinion, the answer is yes, to a certain degree. No one in the world likes military action. I believe it is possible to prevent this. A solution is not such a remote possibility. One does not often reach solutions in one blow, in one campaign, or in one operation. One reaches solutions after a series of experiences. People are like that--one experience is not enough for them. The experience this time was so great that we hope and expect that all the parties involved will understand that they must take a more serious attitude to the matter.

The State of Israel cannot tolerate attacks, and this military problem with the terrorists must be resolved. If the deterrent forces with the support of the entire Arab world, the Lebanese Government and the Christians in Lebanon come to realize that it would be for the good of Lebanon to prevent terrorist activity from Lebanese territory, it would be possible to reach agreement.

[Question] Taking all these factors into consideration, how long do you estimate we will stay in southern Lebanon?

[Answer] I do not want to say for how long, because the period of time in which we will stay or not stay in southern Lebanon also depends on many other international factors. We do not exist in a vacuum where we are free to solve the problems around us by ourselves. There is the United States. There is the Arab world, which is divided, the Soviet Union, and many, many other international factors which definitely have begun to play a role either indirectly or through the Security Council. I can enumerate the factors, the means and methods which are desirable to take or possible to take, but I cannot say how soon it will be possible to reach a solution.

[Question] Perhaps as a concluding question to this political part: Do you think that this operation has changed the political situation in the area--the political situation of Israel--when an impending visit of the prime minister to the United States is standing in the background?

[Answer] In the Middle East, the main process recently has been the negotiations between us and the Egyptians. I must say here that from my personal point of view, this operation or the development of the past week has led the Egyptians to take stock of themselves, since it has become clear that failure to solve the Israeli-Arab conflict in an absolutely clear manner in all the spheres would lead to problems in time of peace. During our talks in Egypt, at least in my presentation of the security problems of the State of Israel, we put heavy stress on that point. Here we had an example. While the negotiations with Egypt were going on, and everyone was hoping it would reach a successful conclusion, we were faced with a security problem on another front, and the State of Israel acted according to all its legitimate rights. What will the Egyptian position be? My personal assessment is that if such a development as happened in the past week is likely to undermine negotiations for peace, peace itself would be a very flimsy paper structure and extremely vulnerable to shock. Therefore, I hope that this development will not affect the negotiations with the Egyptians. Peace between us and the Egyptians, as with the start of peace between us and the Arab world, is something which is too important and great to be affected by a specific event--even if it is an unpleasant event like what happened the past week, beginning with the attack in Israel and then the attacks against the terrorists in southern Lebanon. I believe and hope that nothing concrete will change in the sphere of negotiations between us and the Egyptians. Everything connected with the wider circle of powers, mainly the United States, in my opinion is also a projection of the continued maintenance of the political momentum between us and Egypt. If the world becomes aware that this momentum is continuing, it can better tolerate the events of the past week and view them in the proper perspective. We shall see in the next few days whether this will, indeed, take place.

[Question] Earlier you mentioned the Syrians. The Syrians have not yet reacted. We have also flown over areas in which they are present. How do we create a situation--I am speaking about a future prospective--in which there will no clashes--either accidental or intentional--caused by us?

[Answer] First of all, we are not flying over areas in which they are present. We have meticulously refrained from provoking the Syrians. Beginning with the first statement by the IDF spokesman we have made it clear that we have no intention of clashing with the Syrians. The Syrians are stationed in Lebanon along a line beginning from Jizzin area, west. We have not crossed this line. We have not attacked any Syrian unit. When we attacked the terrorist camp in Ad-Damur, from which the unit set out to attack the bus in Israel last Saturday, rockets were fired at the aircraft. We knew that there was a Syrian unit nearby. We later announced that we knew so that they would know that we knew that they are there. We suspected that they could have fired at us. Nevertheless, we did not attack them. We did not attack them all along the line nor at any other point. I think that a few hours later the Syrians understood that we were preserving both their dignity and professional honor and their lives, and that we were not attacking them. I believe that if we preserve these perimeters which we have maintained so far, we can continue to act within the framework set for us without leading to a clash with the Syrians. We, of course, are following their actions with full alertness, because we are very close to each other in the Lebanese sector. I would guess that they, too, are following our movements carefully. We are not trying to hide things from them. On the contrary. Thus, a sort of modus operandi has been created in which it is clear to them how we are acting, and it is already clear to us how they are reacting. I hope that both sides will have sufficient wisdom not to get involved unnecessarily.

[Question] Let us go back to the operation. Do you think the operation has created a situation that will prevent terrorist activity for a long time in northern Israel?

[Answer] If, after this operation, a settlement is reached I hope it will be able to prevent terrorist activity.

[Question] If no settlement is reached and we are forced to stay for a long time?

[Answer] No purely military operation can insure that no terrorist activity will take place. We have known this since the state was established.

[Question] Have the terrorists been hit severely in this widescale IDF operation?

[Answer] Of all the operations that I remember against the terrorists, this time they received the severest blow.

[Question] In what do you see the main blow?

[Answer] First of all, I think I would not be wrong in saying that they suffered more than 250 killed. This is large number of people. Even to a strong body, this is a large number of people. I think that they also lost commanders. The infrastructure they built over many years has been destroyed. They have received a shock. We have no doubt about this. The combination of ground attacks in the south, the air attacks on their bases along the coast, and the pressure which we are maintaining on them in mopping up the area have confronted them with serious problems. I do not remember all the past cases and how the terrorists reacted, but their reaction this time was mostly characterized by panic.

[Question] Do you see the possibility of us being forced to extend our area of control in southern Lebanon because of activities by the terrorists?

[Answer] War is a game of forces. We have set for ourselves certain perimeters--we mean the State of Israel--we very much want to maintain them. But if, for example, artillery and katyusha fire continue against our settlements and if the resistance which is manifested by shooting does not stop, we will not restrain ourselves. When I was asked 2 or 3 years ago whether there would be a red line for the advance of the Syrians, I replied that I do not like a red line at all. If I do not like a red line for the Syrians, I definitely do not like a red line for the Israelis.

[Question] What determined the size of the area we occupied in this operation?

[Answer] We simply decided to clear all southern Lebanon of the terrorist presence and infrastructure. All southern Lebanon means from the sea to Mount Hermon.

[Question] I meant the depth of our advance. We advanced about 10 kilometers.

[Answer] There were a number of considerations. First of all, the principal terrorist infrastructure affecting us--I mean the settlements in the north--was within 10 kilometers. A second factor was that from 10 kilometers northward we would enter the refugee camps at Tyre, and we did not want to reach these population centers. The third reason was not to provoke the Syrians. So far we have been able to complete the task--although it has not ended yet--and maintain these perimeters. But, at least from a military point of view, we will not tie our hands if they continue the clashes. Then we will have to decide militarily and politically which way we must act.

[Question] In the area which is now under IDF control there are Christians who welcomed us and even, according to some reports, cooperated with us in the course of the operation. What was the cooperation?

[Answer] The Christians did not take part in this operation at all. This was a purely IDF operation.

[Question] We now have a situation in which we control a large population in southern Lebanon. How will the IDF control this population? Will a military government be established? Are we providing supplies to them?

[Answer] First of all, we hope that the people will resettle in their homes. As long as they do not cooperate with terrorists and do not enable them to renew their activity--and I judge that this will be the situation--we invite them to learn from the good fate of Maytarun, Blida, Mays al-Jabal, Hula and Markaba which remained intact and prosperous, and return to their homes and villages.

[Question] What are we assisting in?

[Answer] I hope that before very long a settlement will be found. As long as a settlement is not found, and it is necesary for the State of Israel to help, I imagine it will help just as we have helped the Christians in the south.

[Question] It has been reported that F-15 aircraft took part in the operation.

[Answer] F-15 aircraft took part as an airborne radar system. One of the big advantages of the F-15 is that it has outstanding radar, and it flies high and far and can spot everything taking place in the area.

WEIZMAN TOURS S. LEBANON, COMMENTS ON SITUATION

TA192101Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Mar 78 TA

[Excerpts] The defense minister and the chief of staff visited the IDF forces inside Lebanon. They heard a report from the commander of the northern command, Avigdor Ben-Gal, and from the commanders in the area. Our correspondent Ron Ben-Yishay accompanied the defense minister and the chief of staff: [begin videotape]

[Question] The term security strip, coined only a few days ago, died today. When the defense minister and the chief of staff overflew southern Lebanon today, the front units were already standing on the banks of the Litani River in the north and on the hills north of Tyre. We cannot talk of a strip any longer but of a region with natural, definite borders. This was one of the components of the consultations held with commanders in the area. The second component was the UN Security Council debates and the pressure exerted by the United States for an immediate evacuation of the region and the entry of a UN force. A third, nonpolitical, component is what is usually called troop morale.

[Weizman] This time I do hope that the mission has been achieved. We are located sufficiently north and west. Most of the villages asked us to come in. Apart from that, there have been contacts with terrorists in the course of the day. You can see that the sea and the city of Tyre are visible from this hill.

[Question] And this peninsula entering the sea?

[Answer] Yes, yes. We will not go there. There are refugee camps there and a sizeable population. At the moment I estimate that unless there is a basic change--which I do not think feasible--we will remain where we are until a solution is found and we will ultimately take the equipment and the people and go back home.

[Question] Is there already contact with the Syrians on this issue?

[Answer] To my regret, no.

[Question] What are Israel's demands of a UN force, if and when it is stationed in this region?

[Answer] In my opinion, not to let any hostile force which is active in threatening the State of Israel live and establish itself in southern Lebanon in particular, and in northern Lebanon as well. However, there is a point here which may be forgotten in the heat of the fighting: we have lived together with a small and courageous Christian population in the south for 2 years. Every solution found for us must also be a solution for the Christians.

[Question] Mr Weizman, is there any intention to establish a military government in this region?

[Answer] No, no, no. There is no military government. We do not want to stay here. We do not intend to stay here. Military authorities are used for territory that is held.

We do not want to hold it. I hope it does not sound a little absurd to say, while we are standing on a hill in the middle of Lebanon, that we do not want to hold. We really do not want to do this. We want order to prevail here and that we are not shot at or attacked from any part of Lebanon or, in the first stage, from southern Lebanon at least.

[Question] We are standing here on a hill which you term as quiet, yet we hear artillery and small arms fire. What is happening now?

[Answer] There are several terrorist strongholds and they are being cleared out. [end videotape]

SOUTH LEBANESE LEADERS APPEAL TO BEGIN NOT TO WITHDRAW

NC191345Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Maronite and Shi'ite leaders in southern Lebanon have appealed to the Israeli prime minister not to yield to pressures and not to bring the IDF forces back from southern Lebanon until the area's inhabitants and Israel are assured of calm and security and until everything has been done to prevent the return of the terrorists.

The commander of the Maronite forces in the central sector, (Louis Hasrouni), told our correspondent, Yehezqel Hame'iri, that the Maronites do not accept, under any circumstances, the stationing of UN forces in the area because these forces have proved to be inefficient in the past and that this is actually a swindle aimed at returning the terrorists by the backdoor.

Notables of the Shi'ite community have told our correspondent that the terrorists had wrought havoc in the area and that they want the IDF to insure the safety of the villagers.

IDF TO HELP REPAIR WAR DAMAGE IN S. LEBANON

TA192108Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The IDF will act to help restore life to normal in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent Rafiq Halabi was told this by a senior officer. In the framework of this action houses damaged in the fighting will be repaired, telephones will be reconnected and classes in schools will be resumed--in those villages in which the residents remained, of course. The IDF will also help to provide aid and food to the needy.

To the question of our correspondent as to whether the residents of southern Lebanon will receive permits to work in Israel, the senior officer answered that the majority of the Moslem residents in the enclave are farmers but that if they want to come to work in Israel the matter will be examined.

Our political correspondent says that the government secretary today firmly denied reports to the effect that Israel is thinking of imposing a military government on southern Lebanon.

GOLDA MEIR SAID RECOVERING FROM HEART ATTACK

NC190625Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[Summary] The intensive care unit at Beilinson Hospital reports that Golda Meir apparently suffered a mild heart attack last week. She is recovering fast and feeling better. She has received relatives and friends.

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